



LWVC - TOP TWO PRIMARIES
What has changed about California's primary system?

In June 2010, voters approved the Top Two Primary system for what were formerly called “partisan” statewide offices. With the Top Two Primary, all candidates running for one of these offices are listed on one ballot, regardless of their party preference, and all voters will see the same list of candidates, regardless their own party registration. The top two vote-getters for each office will go on to the general election, regardless their party preference. They are now known as “voter-nominated” offices.

In California these offices include:

Governor	Comtroller	State Senator
Lt. Governor	Insurance Commissioner	State Assembly
United States Senator	Board of Equalization	State Treasurer
Secretary of State	U.S. Representative	Attorney General

The Top Two Primary does not apply for “party nominated” offices:

President and Vice President; Political Party County Central Committees or County Councils.

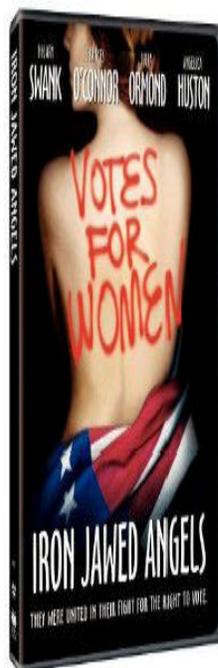
Non-partisan offices such as judges, schools, special districts, municipalities and Supt. Of Public Instruction would remain open to all eligible voters.

For more information go to:
cavotes.org/vote/primary Or Alameda County Registrar of Voters -
<http://www.acgov.org/rov/top2openprim.htm>

LOOKING AHEAD

Help Celebrate
 Women's History Month

Join the League of Women Voters®
 of Fremont, Newark and Union City



Friday Night at the Movies
 March 7th at 7:00
 LWV Meeting Room
 3375 Country Drive - Fremont

Watch this screening of a gripping account of the Women's Suffrage Movement with fellow League Members. This event is open to the public. If you saw it before come for the fun and FREE POPCORN!! And bring a friend.

In this Issue:

- Page 3.....Program Planning
- Page 4.....Meet Our Members
- Page 5.....Desrie Campbell Interview
- Page 5.....Legislative Interviews
- Page 6.....Hot Topic

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE



During January Marilyn Singer assigned sixteen members LWVUS positions to review in preparation for our Program Planning meeting. On January 27th they presented arguments in favor of U.S. Positions they had studied. After hearing all the arguments members went through a consensus process to determine which Positions we, LWVFNUC, would like National to focus their legislative efforts on. Campaign Finance Reform was almost unanimously chosen as the #1 issue for action. Our #2 issue was Gun Control (National requested we only send our top 2 priorities). LWVUS will take the input from Leagues around the country to help them determine the National legislative focus for the next 2 years. Results will be presented at the convention in Dallas in June.

In addition to the outcome requested, our members felt that LWVUS needs to focus on voting rights and climate control. We also asked National to update our Military and Defense Spending position to reflect post Cold War needs.

The Board would now like to get your input on which Local Positions are most important to you. Please take some time to review our local positions (they are in the Member Directory and on our web site, www.lwvfnuc.org) and tell the Board what you believe LWVFNUC should study and work on next year. This will help us plan activities, meetings and studies that are most important to the membership. Send your input to lwvfnuc@lwvfnuc.org.

Sam Neeman and Carolyn Hedgecock

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-13

Officers

Co-Presidents	Sam Neeman Carolyn Hedgecock president@lwvfnuc.org
VP Administration	Miriam Keller
VP Program	Ellen Culver program@lwvfnuc.org
VP Voter Service	Andrea Schacter voterservice@lwvfnuc.org
Secretary	Judy Keller
Treasurer	Peter Starr

Directors

Voter Editor	Alex Starr votered@lwvfnuc.org
Communications	Open publicity@lwvfnuc.org
At Large	Kathy Bray
At Large	Mary Miller
At Large	Pat Lewis
At Large	Jean Holmes
Social Media	Daria Waggener
Historian	Open
Membership	Sets Amann

Off Board

Education Cmte. Chair	Miriam Keller
Action Cmte. Chair	Alex Starr action@lwvfnuc.org
Webmaster/Db Admin	Peter Starr webmaster@lwvfnuc.org
Membership Team	Sam Neeman Kathy Steel-Sabo Lynn Locher
Nominating Cmte.	Gail Blalock, Chair Martha Crowe Pauline Weaver

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

PO Box 3218 Fremont, CA 94539

Office: 3375 Country Drive, Fremont

510-794-5783

www.lwvfnuc.org

Editor Alex Starr

Layout Design: Jane Mueller, Well Chosen Words

PROGRAM PLANNING

Submitted by Marilyn Singer

Every two years League members review LWVUS' positions in preparation for the national convention. Local Leagues provide guidance on legislative lobbying priorities and possible changes we would like to see in National positions for the next biennium. LWVUS then tallies the results submitted. The National board discusses these results and presents delegates with their recommendations at convention.

Sixteen of our League members reviewed specific positions and presented their take on why their position should be one of our League's top priorities. *(See accompanying article from David Fishbaugh for an excellent example of how to present.)*

Members decided our first priority was Campaign Finance Reform (CFR) and our second was gun control. The power of lobbyists figured in both decisions. Most members felt that the undue influence of money and lobbyists in the governance process needs to be curtailed. The Citizens United decision has unleashed so much outside money that legislators spend more than half of their time raising money for re-election rather than taking care of business – legislating. We felt that LWVUS should continue the good fight to overturn or mitigate the Supreme Court decision and should gather strength with coalitions supporting this action.

After some discussion members agreed that renaming the position "Gun Control" to "Gun Violence Prevention" might help gain more support for reforms. Again partnering with other groups on this stand-alone issue we believe will increase effectiveness. Lobbying groups that oppose League's position pour money into their campaigns and against candidates that support Gun Violence Prevention.

Members also showed strong support for Voting Rights and Climate Control positions. In addition we recommended that LWVUS update the Military and Defense Spending position to reflect post Cold War realities. Additionally we requested that "fracking" be added to the Natural Resources position.

Questions about any one of the LWVUS positions can be addressed to Marilyn Singer, meeting review organizer or Ellen Culver, Program Chair. They will have one of our position experts contact you.

You can check out our local positions contained in our Membership Handbook and then can provide the board with your thoughts on what we, LWVFNUC, should focus on. Input will be taken at our Annual Meeting during "Advice to the Board."

Many thanks to participating members for their research and timely oral presentations: Kathy Bray, Alice Johnson, Evelyn LaTorre, Doug Ford, Martha Crowe, Pat Lewis, Sam Neeman, David Fishbaugh, Diance Cheney, Sybil Smith, Alex Starr, Miriam Keller, Jean Holmes, Syeda Inamder, Toni Shellen and Marilyn Singer.

David Fishbaugh's position summary presented during our Program Planning Meeting

Editor's note: David's presentation was a wonderful example of how to present a 2 minute explanation of a position in our review for LWVUS Program Planning. Long time and new members can learn from his succinct report.

The League of Women Voters U. S. positions on United States Relations with Developing Countries:

The League has, since 1970, adopted three related position statements that encompass Relations with Developing Countries (adopted in 1986), International Development Assistance (last revised in 1986), and Private Investment and Commodity Agreements (last revised in 1970).

The League's general position in this regard can be paraphrased as follows:

The most effective means for the United States to help meet the long-term social and economic needs of developing countries is through developmental assistance and humanitarian assistance in lieu of military assistance, direct military involvement and using developing countries as pawns in geopolitical competition.

In its 1986 position statements, the League submits that: "U.S. interests in developing countries should reflect the reality of global interdependence". Further, in regard to its relations with developing countries, the U.S. should seek to reduce the risk of military conflict, promote sound management of global resources, protect human rights, stimulate economic growth and improve the quality of life in developing countries. Its policies should not be

based on the maintenance of global preeminence.

In terms of its international development assistance activities, the U.S. should strive to help developing countries achieve self-sustaining economies and focus on human concerns, especially through population planning, nutrition, health, employment and education.

So, the question we need to address now is if the U. S. League's positions on developing countries

remain relevant, even twenty-eight years hence. If we use the League positions as a standard of conduct, the United States government has both met and failed League expectations. If the League's positions are seen as goals, then their full achievement must lie further in the future. Either way, I posit that the LWVUS position statements before us today are thoughtful, encompassing, relevant and bear reiterating.

MEET OUR MEMBERS – Donna Olsen

Hello League Folks,

It is my pleasure to tell you a little bit about myself . First things first, my connection with League of Women Voters. I joined League in the 70s and served on various study committees and on the Board. It's a great group and I'm proud to be member.

Just briefly, my "bio" is as follows: I was born in Oakland California in 1931 and spent most of my life in the Bay Area (except for 7 years in San Marino CA). I attended Fremont High School in Oakland and graduated from UC, Berkeley with a BA and a year later earned my teaching credential. My husband Dean and I were married shortly after college and moved to Fremont in 1959. We have two sons Mark and Michael.

The accomplishment I am most proud of (other than my family) is being one of the founders of the Tri-City Ecology Center in 1971. The center has been the local leader in environmental matters for over forty years. The center was instrumental in protecting the Fremont hills, preserving about 800-acres of wetlands, operating a recycling center from 1971 to 1989 and more.

I was also a 20-year member of the Citizens Committee to Complete the Refuge (Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge). This amazing group has added thousands of acres to the Wildlife Refuge.

Yes, I do have other interests. Since my earliest days, I have had an interest in art...I was an art major at Cal. Since then I have continued to "dabble" and support the arts wherever and whenever possible.

Communicate

Last month our Co-Presidents, Carolyn & Sam, requested your patience as I worked on new tools for communicating to you. I have completed our League's transition to gmail. You will see a new format for e-trees and e-Voters. Additionally, we now have a new League Web site that I hope you will find both informative and easier to navigate. I want to thank Miriam Keller, Jane Mueller, Sam Neeman and Alex Starr for their input on these projects. Though we don't have a formal Communications Team, we continue to work to make your online League experience helpful and easy to use. Be sure to check out our newly redesigned web site - lwvfnuc.org.

Peter Starr

Great Decisions

Great Decisions meets on the first Wednesday of the month beginning Feb. 5th 2014 and continues through June, a break for the summer, then resuming September-November. The Foreign Policy Association publishes a Great Decisions briefing book at the beginning of the year. This book presents eight of the most important foreign policy issues facing the USA. Reference and resource material is included to help prepare you for discussion. Cost for reference book is \$19. Contact: Anne MacLeod, 651-7938. This year's topics are: China's Foreign Policy; U.S. Trade Policy; Islamic Awakening ; Turkey's Challenges; Defense Technology; Food and Climate; Israel and the U.S.; and Energy Independence.

Miriam Keller

LWVFNUC - Interview with FUSD Trustee Desrie Campbell

“It’s a great time to be a school board member, especially given the passage of Propositions 30,39 and the Local Control Funding Formula,” says FUSD Trustee Desrie Campbell. Desrie is a 1993 transplant from Washington D.C., where she grew up. Desrie became an orphan when her parents died at a very early age. She and her husband have four sons who attended Horner Junior High, Washington High, Irvington High, and Fremont Adult School. While her sons were in college, Desrie was a college student herself. She completed a degree in business administration and is a life-long learner. She is committed to working on behalf of Fremont schools and really urges younger parents to participate.

Warm Springs BART Housing Development. She supports the efforts of FUSD as they work together in partnership with the City of Fremont. The plan is for 4,000 housing units across from the Warm Springs Bart Station, and it is FUSD’s expectation that developers will help build needed school space in the Grimmer area. Students in the new school will be in the Kennedy High attendance area, currently the smallest high school in Fremont. The district is also acquiring new land next to Leitch and another site in north Fremont.

Bond. Desrie Campbell explained that FUSD has a Long-Range Facilities Plan based on various priorities: health, safety, capacity, technology infrastructure, and improved communication system, such as upgraded P.A. systems. An initial study

yielded \$1.6 billion in needs. In a follow-up assessment, school sites listed “most urgent” needs for a district-wide total of \$650 million. The district is polling to determine whether to place a bond on the ballot in June or in the next election cycle. The bond would fund a 10-year facilities plan and run 20 to 30 years.

Middle Schools, Grades 6, 7, and 8: Trustee Campbell said important considerations drive the district’s planning for middle schools: 1) serious overload in elementary schools, especially at Warm Springs and Leitch; 2) a commitment to students attending their local schools; 3) successful implementation of Common Core curriculum which aligns grades 6, 7, and 8; and new programs for kindergarten on the horizon. To ease the transition to middle school, sixth graders would have a sheltered academy.

Security. To improve school security: peepholes in every classroom door, more safety drills, heightened staff and student awareness and greater visibility of administration offices. The proposed bond includes security improvements.

Other Issues. Trustee Campbell said she supports the ROP, because of the career training programs provided for our youth. The adult education programs, especially the GED program and the literacy program for parents and their toddlers. The district plans to add new technology by leasing with upgrades with anti-theft stations included. She wants to keep drivers and walkers safe at schools and says the district is partnering in new ways with the police department to make schools safe.

STATE LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW REPORT FORM 2013-2014

The following is an excerpt from the full interview notes.

QUESTION 1: Money in Politics

Bills to require disclosure of the sources of all contributions in California campaigns and to make campaign disclosure more transparent and user-friendly in general will come before the Assembly and Senate early in 2014. Will you help see that effective measures are passed in the Assembly/Senate to help voters know who’s funding campaigns?

Corbett: Senator Corbett felt Money in Politics is an important issue. Money has increasing influence in the legislature, and she noted that one problem not being addressed is the amount of money paid to lobbyists to “kill” bills; armies of lobbyists are out there giving false information against the efforts of single legislators trying to bring legislation to the floor. She urged the League to tackle this issue of undue influence by lobbyists in killing legislation. She also supported SB 2, SB 3, bills requiring disclosure and transparency sand also SB 37.

Wieckowski: Wieckowski has worked hard on this issue and in favor of greater transparency and is pro-disclosure. Supported SB 27 and AB 52 (Disclose

top 10 contributors per issue on TV ad), but now he feels as if the political will to do more is not there unless the leadership really gets behind another bill. He authored the CA bill to overturn Citizens' United and expressed support for League's positions on Money in Politics.

Both Corbett and Wieckowski expressed concern about the power of lobbyists, especially with term limits in place.

QUESTION 2: Education

The LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) is rolling out over the next few years. Implementation strategies are being drafted and there will inevitably be some adjustments. What do you see as the ongoing role of the legislature? Are there programs you feel should remain categorical? Are there areas you deem as off limits for spending supplemental and concentration funds?

Corbett: She supports LCCFF because she thinks that local decision-making is appropriate since it equals out funding between districts and money follows the student. She thinks that categorical funding might defeat the purpose of LCFF. She feels that the LCFF will begin to level out the unequal ADA funding to all districts that has long been in place. She is concerned that LCFF does not secure Career Technical Education (CTE), Regional Occupational Centers and Programs (ROCP), or Regional Occupational Program (ROP) funding. Corbett is now on the Budget Committee and will follow this issue. She also supports early childhood education to ensure that all four-year-olds have public education.

Wieckowski: Wieckowski supports LCFF (Local Control Funding Formula) and says that the legislature has the responsibility to make this happen. Supports categorical requirements, feels that the legislature has the continuing responsibility to make sure that all districts serve their students in some areas like special education, adult education and comprehensive sex education. If trends appear that districts are cutting back, the legislature should step in and establish goals. "We can't spend enough money on Early Childhood Education", and he

wants school breakfast and lunch programs in place. Wieckowski supports strongly a "Student Bill of Rights". Student debt is over 1 trillion dollars and growing. This is a huge issue.

Question #3: California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Do you think specific projects should be exempted from parts or all of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process, or have special rules set for them? If so, how would you determine which projects should receive such treatment?

Corbett: She is a strong supporter of CEQA. It is a very important statute and saves open land, the environment and species, but there are areas to tweak. SB674 is a minor adjustment with transit, community-oriented, center-of-city projects with housing and mixed commercial that would increase infill from 15% to 20% of land so people could live near work and shopping. She did not like the word "modernize" used with CEQA last year, especially connected with stadiums and with people coming from outside a district who would say they were coming to build a "LEED" building. She is opposed to fracking. She supports SB 4, the only fracking bill to survive. It requires chemical disclosure and sunshine in fracking practices. It is not perfect, but it is the first attempt at regulation. Questions about whether legislation regulating fracking (SB 4) exempts projects from CEQA review cannot be answered until the state has completed its regulatory process (by January 1, 2015).

Wieckowski: Wieckowski commented "CEQA has protected CA from rapacious development." He thinks there should be exemptions for special things like parks and small infill developments and possibly sports stadiums. "I am an infill type of guy." The Warm Springs Development Project in Fremont would not qualify in his opinion, to be considered an infill development and therefore should have a full CEQA review. CEQA should be completely transparent because this reveals stalling techniques which are common in slowing down projects. Wieckowski thinks that the CEQA law is manipulated – primarily against low income projects. Wieckowski proposed several fracking

bills, but the only bill that survived was SB4. He supports it because it has shed light on practices that have been going on for at least 40 years. Chemical trade secrets need to be brought to light. He says disclosures are in place and wells are being monitored, and he referred us to a website for more information. commented that there are Federal Regulation in place and State Regulation are the next step and he is not for Moratorium on fracking. Feels environmentalists have discounted much that has been done. He believes that ground water and chemicals need to be monitored.

Question #4: Local League Question(s)

Corbett:

A - LWVSJ/SC is interested in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan. The governor is a big proponent of the tunnels, but the drought may be changing the thinking about the transfer of water to southern CA. Corbett shares the concerns about the transfer and has problems with salt water intrusion in the delta and impacts on fish and wildlife. She credits the Women's Caucus in the legislature for pushing these environmental issues forward and questioning the tunnel plan.

B - Fremont-Newark-Union City asked about the use of pesticide-laced topsoil from the Patterson Ranch development being used to fill in the quarry pit near the Dumbarton Bridge. We told her the public wants more oversight on this possible toxic site where the Regional Water Quality Control Board issued the filling permit. Corbett's office will be in touch with LWVFNUC on this issue.

Wieckowski

A - 1st question that needs to be asked is A) are the tunnels replacements for existing infrastructure that is now outdated, inefficient, and not environmentally friendly? Assemblymember Wieckowski would be more inclined to be favorable to such a project if

it were replacing old with more environmentally better items. If it meant building tunnels in new areas he would have to really be convinced that it would be worth it. He mentioned what seems good for one might be bad for another. i.e. Problem today is the smelt get sucked into the turbines in the Delta and get chopped up, but if they build the machines further up river, as suggested, so that the smelt can get to their spawning grounds, then it might be bad for the trout further up river. Maybe no good answer....

B - Assemblymember Wieckowski framed some of our questions in a different way: Maybe the toxins in the soil being used to fill in the Dumbarton Quarry are not as toxic in the pit as they would be in the ground around homes so it is a positive transfer of toxic soil; the building of tunnels in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan are not for delivering more water south but merely a replacement of an antiquated conveyance system. He said he is not an expert on water issues.

Question #5: General Question

What we The League can do:

Corbett: 1. Work on Campaign Finance reform. 2. Research the influence and pay of lobbyists. 3. Learn about Green Tech Innovation and foster legislation to implement it. Support Green Tech Innovation to use Cap and Trade money to bring green products to market. 4. Learn about Obama's Brain Initiative. Corbett is asking for federal funding to do this, so watch for her bill. Consider that money for stem cell research could be diverted to this endeavor.

Wieckowski: 1. Study student debt and loan defaults.

Assemblymember Wieckowski asked the League to study student debt and loan defaults. He also is concerned about veterans and minority women getting hit really hard with student loans.

HOT TOPIC



This past month's daytime Hot Topic with Fremont Chief Lucero at our League Meeting Room was attended by over 25 League members and guests. The chief provided a short presentation on how Fremont's Police department is working to protect our persons and property. Burglary, robbery, and vehicle accident reduction are key areas of focus for the department. This has contributed to Fremont being ranked number 2 on the list of the "20 Safest Cities in America" by Business Insider this past July. The Q & A was indeed lively with Chief Lucero answering

questions for almost an hour. If you would like alerts directly from the Fremont Police Department, sign up for Nixle at the Fremont Police Department Web site, www.fremontpolice.org.

If you have any Hot Topics you would like considered, please contact us at lwfvnuc@lwfvnuc.org and we'll see what we can do! This month join us for a visit to the Rosie the Riveter Museum - date to be announced.



Coming this Summer!



Field Trip to Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historic Park

Richmond, CA

*Car Pool with League Members
Meet and Greet a Rosie*

**Take a walk along the Bay Trail shoreline
with timeline and engravings that explore
Home Front history**

For more information contact
Alex Starr, 656-6877, or apstarr@ix.netcom.com

From LWVC Bring Sunshine to Campaigns

California's good campaign disclosure laws need to be strengthened so that voters get the information they need when it matters most. The LWVC sponsors the Sunshine in Campaigns Act bills and supports others to take a comprehensive approach to improving California's disclosure laws.

SB 2 (Lieu and Yee) increases transparency by strengthening enforcement and improving the information provided to voters about campaign funding.

SB 27 (Correa) closes the loophole that allows nonprofits to contribute huge sums in California elections without disclosure.

AB 800 (Gordon) gives the Fair Political Practices Commission important tools to investigate suspected violations.

SB 52 (Leno) will require the three largest funders of political ads to be clearly and legibly identified on the ads themselves.

March 7	Iron Jawed Angels – movie at League office	?? PM League Office
March 13	Action Group	12-2 League office
March 17	Board meeting	6:45 p.m. League office

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

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2014 9:30-2 PM

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

“A NEW VISION FOR OPEN SPACE”

MTC AUDITORIUM, 101 EIGHTH STREET, OAKLAND

LWVFNUC WILL PAY THE REGISTRATION FEE FOR MEMBERS WISHING TO ATTEND.

MEMBERS PAY FOR THEIR OWN LUNCH OR BROWN BAG IT.

THE MTC AUDITORIUM IS ADJACENT TO A B.A.R.T. STATION.

Mission

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

Diversity Policy

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

Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS TODAY!

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Andrea Schacter, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) _____

New Member Renewal

Transfer from _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

*Please make your check payable to:
LWVFNUC and mail it with this
form to:*

LWVFNUC-MEMBERSHIP
P. O. Box 3218
Fremont, CA 94539

Individual Membership—\$60

Household Membership—\$90

Donation to LWVFNUC

\$ _____

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

\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

