



November 11—Veteran's Day



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

HEALTH CARE FOR WHOM?

For you? For your neighbor? For all the many poor who remain uninsured in this rich state?

Monday, November 21, 2005

Fremont Main Library

7:00—7:20 Coffee and dessert

7:20—7:40: A speaker from the City of Fremont will discuss the City's needs, the current budget situation and the outreach effort.

7:40—9:00: SB 840* and the general health insurance crisis.

GET US \$\$\$
Bring used up printer cartridges to this meeting. We get \$\$\$ for them for our League.

MEET FOR DINNER ON OCTOBER 17 AT SWEETTOMATOES
Come at 6:00 before the November 21 Meeting and look for fellow Leaguers. We don't get enough time to visit. Over dinner, we'll have time to get acquainted or catch up with each other. Bring a friend who is interested in the League. Why stay at home and slave over a hot stove?
Sweet Tomatoes is at 39370 Paseo Padre, Fremont.

*This bill would replace private health insurance in California and would deem all state residents eligible for coverage under a new state program that would be the sole payer of most health care services.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Many people are expressing their displeasure about our special election this November. Do not let your feelings about whether or not there should be an election keep you away from the polls. Every election is important. You need to vote your opinion on each of the 8 propositions on the ballot. If you don't, you could find that items you don't agree with become law and even part of our State Constitution. As Leaguers, we need to reach out to others and persuade them that they need to become informed about each of the initiatives and to vote.

Our State League study on Energy is just beginning. To join the committee call or email Susan Gearhart 656-7703, grasslandladyvrn@aol.com. Our local study on "the transparency of the governance and budget of the Washington Hospital District and consideration of present community services as well as possible new community services" is also just starting. Call or email Judy Zlatnik 797-1389, jzlatnik49@comcast.net

From Trudell Een, Smart Voter Project Director: "An effective method for spreading the word fast about Smart Voter is viral marketing. Send a short e-mail about Smart Voter to everyone in your address book. An example is available on the SV front page or at <http://smartvoter.org/voter/email.html>."

BOARD BRIEFS

At the October Board meeting, the Board

- accepted the resignation of Kirsten Hu as secretary due to illness,
- voted to reimburse Susan Gearhart for attending the San Francisco Estuary Conference for 3 days,
- replied to the Sikh Supreme Council that we would need a neutral place in order to help with their January election,
- decided to add LWVBA program planning to the scheduled December LWVUS program planning,
- directed our Publicity Director to investigate ads for the LWVC positions on the propositions,
- reviewed our Budget policy.

FOR SALE

Very well used file cabinet left in the League office by a former president of our League, (whose initials are B.S. and now useless for our purposes, since our present president is cleaning out all the debris that has been left at the office. This relic will go to the highest bidder. So make an offer. Call Miriam—683-9377.



CONGRATULATIONS

TO SYEDA YUNUS

Syeda has been appointed to LWVC's Audit Committee.

MEMBERSHIP

Congratulations to Sam Neeman and Peter Starr!

Because of their efforts, you will be receiving your Membership Handbook in the mail soon. They worked long hours to produce a handbook that is as accurate as possible. Thank you, Peter and Sam.

We now have 119 local members and 14 national members.

—Sr. Marjorie Wakelin, Membership Chair

PROGRESS REPORT ON "MEET THE CHALLENGE"

LWVC sponsors the incentive program called "Meeting the Challenge". To achieve the goal of Meeting the Challenge a League must achieve 5 out of 8 criteria. One must be a 5% membership growth of locally recruited members. We have recruited 2 out of the 6 needed. Other areas we have chosen are: Leadership Development, Communications, Intercommunity Development and Citizen Development. All items in bold have either been completed or are on the way to being completed.

Leadership Development: new leadership trainer will be former president who will meet with new members and committee chairs and with other small groups to prepare them for future leadership roles.

Communications: will buy ads in local newspaper to advertise events, bring historical items to meetings, will distribute League materials at League events; will continue to enhance web site.

Intercommunity Development: will create a forum on impact of national security measures on civil liberties of local citizens, will continue to work with contacts in Afghan and Muslim communities to co-sponsor events.

Citizen Education: sponsor tour of Salt Pond Restoration in Bay, continue with "Voting Matters" programs to address needs of all 3 communities, support youth in discussions of Bill of Rights and Constitution, sponsor or co-sponsor

Brown Act training.

You can help by encouraging potential new members to join, to bring historical items that you may have tucked away to our attention, to volunteer for a "One Shot" task when asked—Alex Starr



HEALTH INSURANCE FOR ALL

The United States remains one of the few industrialized nations without some form of universal health care for its citizenry. Nearly 45 million have no health insurance and it is estimated that another 38 million do not have adequate health care (www.pbs.org). The situation in California is no better with one in five having either no coverage or inadequate coverage (www.healthcareforall.org).

California State Senator Sheila Kuehl (District 23) has sponsored SB 840 which passed the State Senate at the end of May 2005. As we have reported in the September and October 2005 issues of the Voter, the League of Women Voters of California supports SB 840 as a reasonable response to our statewide health care crisis. The LWVC has issued a call to action to contact our State Assembly members to push for passage of SB 840 in both houses (www.ca.lwv.org/lwvc/action/call/sb840_2005-03.html).

LWVFNUC is sponsoring a forum in November on SB 840 and the general health insurance crisis so that the Public can become better informed and make up their own minds as to the viability of SB840. We are inviting Sena-

tor Kuehl, or her representative as well as representatives from LWVC to answer questions. Please see the first page of this Voter for more information about location and date and time of the forum.

—Syeda Yunus

ENERGY STUDY

All non-members interested in this study can contact LWVFNUC's web master and ask to be included in the energy efficient emails that will be going out about the study and consensus questions.

These emails will start on January 13th and continue for one week. The first consensus meeting will be on January 21st. —Alex Starr

MARK YOUR CALENDARS and register early!

I hope you will all plan on attending the Fremont Chamber of Commerce's Public Policy Forum Luncheon on "The Future of Education", scheduled for December 9th, noon-2pm, at the Fremont Marriott. Luncheon costs are \$30 for Chamber members and \$40 for non-Chamber members. Please note that FEF, FUSD, and City of Fremont are all members.

The panel of speakers will be Fremont Superintendent Doug Gephart, FUDTA President Jeff Poe, and Scott Plotkin, Executive Director of the California School Boards Association. For those of you who have never heard Scott Plotkin, he is an engaging speaker and this should be a great forum. I hope to see you all there! —Nina Moore

KICKOFF MEETING A SUCCESS

Approximately 35 members and guests attended our forum on balancing civil liberties and national security. An ice breaker encouraged everyone to choose which civil liberties they would be willing to sacrifice to achieve security. Many – including both FBI panelists - did not want to give up any civil liberty at all. Action Chair Marilyn Singer reports the following results of the “vote” to give up a civil liberty:

- 19 gave up the right to bear arms
- 8 gave up the right against self-incrimination
- 4 gave up the right against unreasonable search and seizure
- 3 gave up the right to defense counsel
- 3 gave up freedom of religion
- 1 gave up the right to due process

Nobody gave up the right to vote, the right to free speech, the right to assemble, and the right to know the nature of charges against oneself.

Question: Is the right to privacy guaranteed in the Constitution? Most people voting decided it was there.

Some people thought the right to reproductive choice was also guaranteed either in the Constitution or in the Bill of Rights.

These last two questions are very controversial. Roe vs. Wade was based on the right to liberty. Some people say that if one issue can be decided on liberty (privacy), then every issue should be judged the same: polygamy, drug use, etc. But the reverse side to those who want the liberty extended would be that same sex marriage would also be a personal liberty. It's a mystery!

President Miriam Keller welcomed everyone, encouraged members to

sign up for either the local or state study, and introduced moderator Judy Zlatnik, who in turn introduced panel members: SAC of the San Francisco office, Joe Ford, San Jose FBI agent, Randy Cook, American Muslim Voice Executive Director, Samina Faheem Sundas, and Davis Reimer, representing the ACLU as a citizen civil libertarian. Judy also introduced special guests Fremont police chief, Craig Steckler and Fremont Fire Chief, Rick Martin.

After opening remarks by the panelists, questions from the audience reflected typical League depth of knowledge and interest in the subject. The give and take between panelists and the audience was an example of League offering a neutral platform on which differing opinions could be openly discussed. Some of the lasting impressions: everyone wanted to preserve our civil liberties but not always in the same manner; one person's idea of invasion of privacy may be seen by an official as a legitimate avenue to pursue possible threats to our community; the FBI, as seen in the media, is not the same as putting a face on real people with real viewpoints and concerns; more progress in communication needs to be made between the authorities and the people they serve.

Suggested Reading list from FBI agent Randy Cook:

Recommended Reading

Saudi Hate Ideology fills American Mosques Freedom House – available online at

www.freedomhouse.org/religion.

Freedom House is a group founded more than sixty years ago by Eleanor Roosevelt and other concerned Americans to promote freedom of religion World Wide. They randomly collected brochures from American Mosques and had them translated into English. Amazing reading.

The Cell by John Miller, Chris Mitchell and Michael Stone – This is a good book regarding an introduction to modern terrorism in the United States. It explains the creation of the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the early days of Al Qaeda.

Hatreds Kingdom by Dore Gold – This book does an excellent job of explaining Saudi Arabia's role in the current state of Islamic-Wahhabi Terrorism. It's been described as a “must read” for anyone working terrorism or involved in Government.

Islam and Terrorism by Mark A. Gabriel Ph.D. – Dr Gabriel has a Ph.D. in Islamic Studies and Christian Studies. He taught at Al Azhar University prior to fleeing for his life and coming to the U.S. This is one of several books that Dr. Gabriel has written. They are excellent insights into life in the Middle East and growing up in an Islamic culture and how all that ties into today's activities.

Ghost Wars by Steve Coll – Recommended by agents that have read it and receives great reviews on Amazon.

From Beirut to Jerusalem by Thomas Friedman – Good book to give the reader a feel for what it's like to live in the Middle East. What daily life and dealing with the constant threat of death can be like.

Signs Along the Road & In the Shadows of the Koran by Sayyid Qutb - These are very difficult to find in English. Qutb was a traditionalist or fundamentalist and is credited for helping start what has evolved into radical fundamentalism today. The books are a good insight into how fundamentalists think



CEQA: THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT

CEQA, or the California Environmental Quality Act, signed into California law in 1969 requires state and local agencies to identify the significant environmental impacts of their actions and to avoid or mitigate those impacts, if feasible. The intent is to "Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible". Sounds great doesn't it? However, as with much of California's legislation, CEQA guidelines avoid clear mandates "due to the requirement for state agencies to reimburse local government for any mandates contained in the state regulations" unless required by the CEQA statutes or court decisions. This intentional ambiguity sometimes leads to long study periods and expensive legal challenges.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area invited several people to discuss the statute, how it has worked and if it need to be changed. They were Janet McBride, Assn. of Bay Area Governments, Joseph Perkins, CEO Home Builders Assn. of Northern CA, Joseph Horwedel, San Jose Planner, Juliet Ellis, Urban Habitat, Stuart Flashman, Attorney of Environmental Land Use Law, and Gary Patton, Planning and Conservation League. Here is a summary of those discussions:

The speakers saw many benefits from CEQA and most agreed it needed to be clarified and improved in some areas. The following three sections summarize some of the legislation's strengths, negative impacts, and recommendations for changes to the legislation.

Strengths:

- Public agencies and the public need information on a project's effects on the physical environment. That way mitigation can be worked out if the project has worth.

- The public needs to be fully informed about all projects. Elected officials must make decisions in a transparent way. If constituents disagree with those officials they can be recalled or not re-elected.

- CEQA laws can make officials listen because the threat of litigation is powerful.

Urban Habitat seeks environmental justice by using CEQA as a tool to increase community participation usually on site specific projects. Health impacts are easy to understand and generate community interest and action. They believe improving the environment for health issues is a good use of CEQA. One example is asthma rates in West Oakland and around refineries. Low income communities have more toxic uses in their areas, and this needs to be addressed.

Weaknesses:

- One of CEQA's weaknesses is it's "flexibility" and though mitigation can be used it is often not implemented. This needs to be changed. CEQA litigation is costly and requires interpretations by lawyers who specialize in its rules. Often, NIMBY (not in my backyard) groups and individuals use CEQA on projects that are site specific. Cumulative impacts should be considered since one person's aversion to increased density and cause sprawl in another person's community.

- The people who are hired to do EIR's may have conflicts of interest, although the costs of failed CEQA litigation are probably enough to discourage frivolous claims. From a building perspective, it was noted that a single individual can block a project, smart growth can be attacked (NIMBY), low income housing and projects like AID's housing can be contested, issues like labor-relations which are not environmental issues can trigger CEQA and the costs of projects can be driven up making it more difficult to provide affordable housing. But CEQA litigation

can clarify these problems.

Legislature and Process Improve mint Suggestions:

- Better overall General Planning would decrease the need to use CEQA litigation.
- CEQA has to be clarified, better funded and it needs to work regionally. There are two bills that currently address these issues, SB 832 and SB 1024.
- We need to take a look (Again!) at cumulative effects and decide if the effects are "significant". We also need to define significant.
- Require Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) be understandable.
- CEQA should make it easier for citizen input without a lawyer.
- Regional planning needs to be done by people who are accountable.
- Cities might save money if they hired a CEQA litigator to draft EIR's.
- For those involved in CEQA planning meetings:
 - If a group or person speaks against a project, use all the questions on the CEQA list to put evidence on the table. If it is not on the initial complaint, it will not be part of the discussion.
 - One comment by Stuart Flashman seemed a good sanity test for making decisions based on CEQA. It is "The Bill of Rights for an Environmental Democracy". It's for the public's benefit, not for an individual's benefit. The government entity handling the project has to give all the information on the project to the public, allow adequate time for study, and listen and respond fully to questions before it makes a decision.

For additional information on this important California Statute visit the following web site:

<http://ceres.ca.gov/ceqa/index.html>



LEAGUE AND LEAGUERS AT WORK AT THE COUNTY LEVEL ELECTIONS

Elaine Ginnold, Acting Registrar of Voters for Alameda County, has recruited many League members for two new committees to advise her and her office—on Instant Runoff Voting and on Elections.

The Election Advisory Committee, which first met in August, was formed to help the Registrar's office understand election issues from the point of view of County voters. The initial focus of the committee has been voting equipment decisions. As Registrar Ginnold pointed out at the meeting, two laws that go into effect on January 1, 2006 require the County to make decisions regarding its voting equipment. The Help America Vote Act (HAVA), requires each polling place to have accessible voting equipment so that all voters can vote independently and privately. The current touch screen voting equipment used by the County meets this requirement. The second is the State law that requires each touch screen to have a voter verified paper audit trail printer. The Diebold touch screens with printers have not yet been certified by the Secretary of State. Diebold's and the other touch screen equipment is due to be certified between September and December 2005.

Ginnold, with approval by the Board of Supervisors, is issuing a new Request for Proposals (RFP) for a single vendor to provide a mix of equipment at each polling place—touch screens with a paper audit trail, and an optical scan voting system. This would give voters a choice of systems. Vendors who respond to the RFP will have to meet rigorous contract provisions that should avoid many of the difficulties that the County, as an early adopter of touch screens, endured with its vendor Diebold. Early meetings have focused on the erosion of public confidence in the accuracy and reliability of our elections. How can public trust be improved by improving the machines and programs themselves? By improving the testing by elections officials? Should elections be programmed in "open source code", and what does that mean? How can public trust be improved by making all aspects of the election process open and visible to all interested citizens—"transparent", in the current phrase.

The Committee is broadly drawn, including citizens who believe or fear that the vendors and their computerized voting machines are stealing elections, to a UCB

professor who is part of a new national consortium called ACCURATE (A Center for Correct, Usable, Reliable, Auditable, and Transparent Elections). [For details, see http://www.berkeley.edu/news/media/releases/2005/08/15_evoting.shtml]

Many League members and spouses serve on this committee, as League reps or wearing other hats, among them Nancy Bickel, Chair, ACCLWV; Evelyn Cormier, LWV Eden Area; Helen Hutchison, President, LWVO; Kate Quick, Communications Director, LWVC Board; and Nancy Van Huffel, President, LWV Eden Area.

The Instant Runoff Voting Committee, which first met in June, also includes many Leaguers: Anne Spanier, LWVO, Jean Safir, LWVBAE, Nancy Bickel, Sherry Smith, President, LWVBAE, Bonnie Hamlin, LWVO, and Leaguers like Angelina Reyes, Judy Bertelsen and Joanne McKray, representing other organizations. Registrar Ginnold has worked with the committee to develop a uniform protocol or format that might be used for IRV elections within the County. A uniform "roadmap" or protocol would enable the county to instruct vendors of election services about exactly what kind of IRV election for which they should develop a computer program and seek to have certified by the Secretary of State. If the same "roadmap" were adopted by cities within the County that wished to run IRV elections, the Registrar and the vendor would be able to move forward with incorporating IRV elections as part of consolidated elections. At present Berkeley, Oakland and San Leandro permit IRV elections in some cases.

The "roadmap" for IRV is currently being reviewed by the City Attorneys of the three cities, and the County Counsel. Local press has given good coverage to efforts by IRV activists, including some Leaguers, to enable Berkeley to use IRV for its Mayor, Auditor and Council elections in November of 2006. In September, the Berkeley City Council passed Councilmember Kriss Worthington's motion to write to the Secretary of State clarifying what the City needs to do to implement IRV. In addition, the Council urged the Registrar and Board of Supervisors to implement IRV and decided to begin preparing to adopt an implementation ordinance. Former City Clerk Sherry Kelly, hired by the City to work on implementing IRV, continues to

work with the Registrar and connect with potential vendors to overcome barriers to IRV in Berkeley.

Funding Health Services in the County has been a continuing League concern. At its August meeting, the ACCLWV confirmed creation of the ACC Health Committee and the nomination of two League members, Dr. Ken Ballard and Sal Tedesco to the Measure A Oversight Committee. The County Leagues strongly supported passage of Measure A in 2004 to bail out the heavily indebted County Medical Center, which runs Highland Hospital and other County services, the safety net for those without health insurance.

Grand Jury reports on the progress of the Medical Center toward good fiscal and administrative management have continued to be very critical after passage of Measure A. The ACC has written several letters urging improvement.

ACC was glad to be asked to nominate two members to the oversight committee and delighted to find two extremely expert and able members to serve. To support Ken Ballard and Sal Tedesco in their work, Susan Schroeder, LWV Piedmont representative to ACC, will chair the newly formed ACC Health Committee. Susan and Dr. Ursula Rolfe of LWVBAE will share observing of the Alameda County Medical Center Board.

Join the Committee? The ACC Health Committee will communicate by e-mail, with meetings from time to time, so Leaguers who would like to participate in the committee's communications should contact Susan Schroeder at srschroede@aol.com.

ACC on the Web: League Action at the County level is often invisible to members so LWVBAE has agreed to host the Alameda County Council of LWV's web pages. We'll be posting our letters to elected officials and other info. Take a look at www.lwvbae.org/acc.htm or just go to the lwvbae.org site and click the Alameda County Leagues items. Nancy Bickel, Chair, Alameda County Council



STUDENT IDENTIFIERS

WHAT IT MEANS: California educators believe a 10-digit number will help improve the state's schools.

From now on, that number - known as a student identifier - will be assigned to students from the day they enter kindergarten, and it will follow them through their years in school.

Officials say the statewide student identifier system will allow them to learn a lot about California's estimated 6 million public school students that currently is a mystery:

How many graduate from high school and how many drop out? How many pass - as is now required to graduate - both the math and English sections of the California High School Exit Exam? How much does a student learn as he advances from third grade to fourth grade to fifth?

Right now, state officials can only guess at the answers because they lack a student ID system that can match test and demographic information to individual students. That's where the student identifier comes in.

WHAT'S BEING DONE: By 2008, the state expects to launch the \$8.2 million student identifier system that's been in development since 1997. California will join the 22 states that already have such a system.

"One of its main purposes is to help us improve our graduation rates," said Keric Ashley, director of data management for the state Department of Education. "We'll have better data to shine a light on where our graduation rates or dropout rates are good and where they're poor."

HOW IT WILL WORK: Already, 98 percent of California public school students have been assigned a unique 10-digit number. The remaining students will likely get theirs by the spring,

Ashley said.

In the next few years, officials will build the database system that will track the numbers, along with information on student demographics, test scores and program participation. Eventually, educators believe they will be able to identify how participation in special programs - Gifted and Talented Education, special education or English learner programs, for example - affects student achievement.

Paul Warren, an education policy analyst with the Legislative Analyst's Office, said the student identifier system will give the public a new look at public education.

"I think it will really change a lot about how we think of schools," he said.

By Laurel Rosenhall -- Bee Staff Writer
Published 2:15 am PDT Thursday, September 15, 2005
Story appeared in Metro section, Page B4

LOOK IT UP: www.csis.k12.ca.us/library/Statewide-Identifier/default.asp

CLEAN MONEY

Clean Money Movement Seeks League Participation: A report from Campaign Financing program director Donna Chipps

The LWVC continues to participate in the Campaign Finance Reform Summit with Common Cause, California Clean Money Campaign, Greenlining Institute and several other organizations within our state. Our focus is on publicizing and passing [AB 583, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act](#) by Assembly Member Loni Hancock of the East San Francisco Bay Area. AB 583 is now a two-year bill that will come up for consideration again in January. As a result of the public's extraordinary interest in the Clean Money bill last spring, the Assembly Elections

Committee agreed to hold special hearings in the state about campaign finance measures this fall. One is to be held in South Alameda County on Friday, December 2 at 12 noon as a brown bag meeting. Please Contact Miriam Keller, at 683-9377. Another will be held for North Alameda County on December 3 at 10:00 AM at Oakland City Hall Hearing Room 2.

On May 18, 2005, the Portland City Council approved Voter Owned Elections for city elections, making it the first city in the country to adopt full public financing of elections (i.e., Clean Money). This ordinance had broad community support including the LWV Portland. Several California cities have begun Clean Money efforts. At this time, I know of no Leagues that have officially endorsed such an effort. Please let me know if you have supported a local effort and, if you have not, what were the reasons for not taking a supportive position.

Clearly, campaign finance reform remains an ongoing issue in California at both the state and local levels. At this time, I do not have a readily available list of League members who are interested in Campaign Finance Reform, in general, or Clean Money, specifically. Although I can continue to represent the League as an advocate for reform, I cannot maximize the League's impact on this core issue without a committed and passionate grassroots network, a hallmark of the LWVC's reputation in the community. Please contact Donna Chipps (e-mail cf@lwvc.org) if you would like to be part of the CFR grassroots network, want Clean Money information or have other CFR concerns.



BUDGET IQ QUIZ

From Next-Ten.org

1. Are average Medi-Cal costs per patient in California higher or lower than most other states?
 - a) Higher
 - b) Lower

2. How much does it cost the state per year to provide medical care to the average child in Medi-Cal?
 - a) \$1,000
 - b) \$3,000
 - c) \$5,000

3. How did the State get into the protracted budget crisis that started in 2000 and has yet to be resolved?
 - a) State revenues increased rapidly, then plummeted during the recession?
 - b) Spending increased
 - c) Some taxes were cut
 - d) All of the above

4. How many people live in California?
 - a) Fewer than 10 million
 - b) 10—20 million
 - c) 20—30 million
 - d) 30—40 million
 - e) 40—50 million

5. By how much does the state's population grow each year?
 - a) 200,000—400,000
 - b) 400,000—800,000
 - c) More than 800,000 each year

6. What is the fastest growing segment of our population?
 - a) Adults over 65
 - b) Young adults age 18—24
 - c) Children age 5—18

7. The biggest source of income in the state is
 - a) Income tax
 - b) Sales tax
 - c) Taxes on Corporations
 - d) Motor vehicle taxes and fees

8. Does California have higher taxes than other states?
 - a) yes
 - b) no
 - c) yes and no

Answers below

PROTECT THE ARCTIC WILDERNESS

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) is still under threat. The House and Senate have passed language in their budget resolution that would pave the way to oil drilling in ANWR. If Congress passes a budget reconciliation bill formally opening the Refuge, the battle to protect these pristine lands will be lost. Make your voice heard now! Tell your Representatives and Senators that the budget reconciliation must not pass with oil drilling revenues from ANWR.

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VIRAL MARKETING

An effective method for spreading the word fast about Smart Voter is viral marketing. Send a short e-mail about Smart Voter to everyone in your address book. An example is available on the SV front page or at: <http://smartvoter.org/voter/email.html>. Include the Smart Voter address <http://smartvoter.org> in your e-mail signature. Look for Web sites in your community--schools, local organizations and media Web sites--and ask them to link to Smart Voter. —LWVC

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

The Center for Governmental Studies (CGS) recently released an updated, comprehensive series of charts outlining public financing laws in cities and counties across the nation. These charts are a part of the CGS series, "Public Financing in American Elections," a multi-year comparative research project on the effectiveness of public financing laws adopted in local jurisdictions in the United States.

Currently twelve cities and counties have public financing laws. Tucson, Arizona has the oldest such law, adopted in 1985. In May 2005, Portland, Oregon became the most recent city to enact a public financing law and the first in the country to adopt a full public financing program, which means that the city government provides all of the financial resources necessary for qualified local candidates to run for public office. Find it at <http://www.cgs.org/>

GEORGIA LEAGUE SCORES VICTORY IN VOTER ID LAWSUIT

On October 18, the League of Women Voters of Georgia (LWVGA) and other voting rights advocates scored a victory when a U.S. District Court judge issued a preliminary injunction protecting Georgia voters from a newly-passed restrictive photo ID requirement. The injunction prevents this law from being enforced until the lawsuit filed by LWVGA and other groups challenging the measure is fully heard in court.

—From LWVUS Presidents' Updates, October 2005

ANSWERS TO BUDGET QUIZ
 1. b. 2. a. 3. d. 4. d. 5. b. 6. a. 7. a. 8. c. The reason that the answer is "yes and no" is that California income tax and sales tax payments are slightly above average while our property tax payments have been below.

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 LWVNUC \$ _____ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ _____ Total enclosed \$ _____
 Name(s) _____
 Address _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Transfer _____
 from _____

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: Ann Crosbie: 510-657-3422, crosbieclan@comcast.net. 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's diversity.

LWVFNUC Voter

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

ELECTRONIC CORNER

A very interesting site:
 History and Politics Out Loud
<http://www.hpoul>

This site allows you to hear speeches out loud! Hit the BROWSE button and you can choose by date, by speaker or by title.

You are able to hear, among others;

- 1 speech by Earl Warren
- 4 by Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 34 by Richard Nixon
- 2 by William J. Clinton
- 30 by Lyndon Johnson
- 19 by John F. Kennedy
- 1 by George Marshall
- 1 by Nikita S. Khrushchev
- 5 by Martin Luther King Jr.



—Vesta Wilson

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a non-partisan 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.

QUOTE

If liberty and equality, as thought by some, are chiefly found in democracy, they will be best attained when all persons alike share in the government to the utmost.—Aristotle (384 BC—322 BC)
Politics



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF FREMONT,
NEWARK AND UNION CITY**
P.O. Box 3218 Fremont, CA, 94539
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Newark, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7 PM

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

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

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<http://www.lwvfnuc.org>
and Smart Voter
www.smartvoter.org

CALENDAR

Tues., Nov. 8	Election Day	All day	Where you vote
Fri., Nov. 11	Education Committee	9:30 AM	Miriam Keller's home
Mon., Nov. 14	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	Joanne Lander's home
Wed., Nov. 16	Cable Taping	2:30	Comcast Studios
Mon., Nov. 21	Unit Meeting—Health Care	7:00—9:00 PM	
Wed., Nov. 30	Action Committee	9:30 AM	Marilyn Singer's home
Fri., Dec. 2	Energy Study Meeting	9:30 AM	Miriam Keller's home

