

# Voter

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



Veterans Day, November 11



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

PRESENTS:

Where are we and where are we going in this  
financial crisis?

## THE THREE CITY MANAGERS

At the Silliman Center Community Room

6800 Mowry Ave. (at Cherry), Newark

Monday November 17th, 7:00 PM



Panel: Fred Diaz, City Manager, Fremont

John Becker, City Manager, Newark

Larry Cheeves, City Manager, Union City



Oh where, Oh where has our money gone?

Oh, where, Oh where can it be?



Dear Fellow Leaguers:

By the time this Voter reaches you, it most probably would be after the historic election of November 4, 2008. Record numbers of people are expected to vote in this election. According to the statistics from the California Secretary of State's website, over 500,000 more people are registered this year than were in the September 2004 elections. However, the percentage of registered voters to eligible voters went down a tiny bit from 70.91% in 2004 to 69.79% in 2008. Still, the amount of interest everywhere is heart-warming. More people seem to be watching the public debates and are themselves vigorously arguing the issues.

Whatever the outcome of the elections, each one of us will need to recommit to staying involved with our community and our government; especially at this time in our history, with the current state of crisis, we the people can not afford to give up ownership of our democracy.

And we need you to stay involved. Please visit our website at [www.lwvfnuc.org](http://www.lwvfnuc.org) for updated information regarding dates, time and place for upcoming events or contact us via email or phone. This is your League

With best regards,

Syeda R Yunus, President

At the October 16, 2008 Board Meeting, the Board:

- Approved the minutes of the September 2008 Board meeting.
- Heard the Treasurer's report and reviewed the financial information related to special projects.
- Heard that the internal audit had started for past years; financial statements.
- Agreed that we would hold a 2008 housing focus group meeting.
- Planned to hold a Program meeting in early December and invite the City Mangers of our League area to speak.
- Discussed holding our program planning meeting in January.
- Discussed our non-partisan policy and agreed to renew discussion next Board meeting.
- Reserved March Program for our Education Committee.
- Reviewed our publicity for upcoming programs.
- Congratulated Voter Service/Publicity for excellent work on all areas including candidate forums, voter registration and also Voter Information Booklet.
- Heard reports from the Action, Education and Homeowners elections committees.
- Reviewed Speakers' Bureau engagements.

Minutes, Treasurer's report and President's report are on our League's Board web-page and will soon be available on the member's only website at [www.lwvfnuc.org](http://www.lwvfnuc.org).



## YOUR LEAGUE DID A GREAT JOB—WHAT A TEAM!!!!

During September and October, your amazing League managed to produce eleven- that's right, eleven- League Candidate Forums and assist with one more at Fremont Main for Community Resources for Independent Living.

We couldn't have accomplished this without the commitment and energy of many League members and the assistance of others in the community.

First, the venues: The City Of Fremont allowed us to use the Council Chambers for the Fremont Mayoral, City Council, FUSD and Washington Hospital forums. Comcast technician, Walter Garcia, was hired to video the programs, and he was cooperative and talented. Ohlone College and their students did the video work for the Ohlone and ACWD forums, and arrangements were handled through Shelby Foster and Arnie Loleng. Many thanks. NHUSD handled all the video arrangements for their School Board forum, and Rick LaPlante was organized and cooperative. Comcast Studios made their facilities available to the League Cable Crew. AAUW and the Fremont PTA were co-sponsors of several forums.

The great thing about all this networking was that the forums ran on many venues: Washington Hospital ran the WH Board on their channel; NHUSD ran their forum on Channel 27 in Union City and South Hayward and also ran the Judges forum and the Congressional Forum. The COF ran the Fremont Mayor and Council, FUSD and WH: Ohlone did streaming video of Ohlone Board and ACWD; Comcast ran 10 forums. The League had forums running on every channel in town. Yeah!!!

Now for the workers: Our professional quality moderators were Mary Miller, Jane Mueller, Syeda Yunus, Alex Starr, Sandi Pantages, Andrea Schacter, Nina Moore and Bob Monkman; Our astute question sorters were Syeda, Kathy Steel-Sabo, Miriam Keller, Sarabjit Cheema, Kay Emanuele, Carol Hedgecock, Ken Ballard, Andrea Schacter, Sets Amann, Barbara Friedrich and Ellen Culver; Our timers were Miriam Keller, Ann Halligan, Merna Morse and Sets Amann. Pages were Merna Morse, Sarabjit Cheema, members of the Fremont PTA and members of AAUW. The hard-working Cable Crew was John Smith, Kay Emanuele, Carolyn Hedgecock, Ann Halligan, Andrea Schacter, Miriam Keller and Alex Starr.

The Smart Voter website was up and running with work done by Letha Saldanha and Miriam Keller. New linking technologies were used to expand the information. Great work!!!

The Fremont Voter Information Booklet was produced professionally with leadership by John Smith who was assisted by Sets Amann, Gus Morrison, Jean Holmes and Marilyn Singer. The League's hard work made this a good value for candidates and netted the League \$2800 for Voter Service activities. John Rocks!!!!

Voter affidavits were flying out of the boxes that the League stuffs, literally down to the last day to register. Huge numbers of new voters registered, and it was a continual job to keep the boxes filled. Voter registration drives and Pro/Con distribution were done by Voter Service Co-Chair Barbara Friedrich and Sets Amann. Jean Holmes answered all the calls for information that came on the League phone.

—Marilyn Singer



## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee is busy studying the Education Toolkit provided by LWVC Council. Each member is assigned to articles to study and report back. Titles as "School Finance—Exploration Project", "Understanding and Using Assessment Data to Drive School Reform" and "Facts about California's Schools: Understanding the Need for Enlightening Policy" are among the articles under study.

We had some of the winning entries of the "Y Vote? Contest reproduced on posters and sent a set of these to all the high schools to post. We hope that this will pique the interest of students when we do the contest again.

We were told that the EdSource Conference, which most of us have attended each year will be held only in the Southern California. Too bad. They always had informative programs a very good lunch.

We are studying an Ed Data publication comparing California to other states. We find that California has 6.2 million students, almost 2 million more than Texas, the next most populous state. California has the highest percentage of English learners in the nation and is near the top in the proportion of children living in low-income families.

Funding and staffing levels in California lag behind other states. California has been consistently below the national average in per pupil spending and above the national average in the number of pupils to teachers and pupils per staff. As a result, California's educators are each responsible for considerably more students than their counterparts in most other states. For more information, go to [www.eddata.org](http://www.eddata.org).

—Ann Crosbie, Miriam Keller, Ken Ballard and Vesta Wilson, members of the Education Committee

## GREAT OPPORTUNITY—JOIN A GREAT GROUP—THE ACTION COMMITTEE

The members of the Action Committee divide up our work by having each member of the committee become a “specialist”. The job of a specialist is to spearhead the committee’s work in a certain area. We currently have specialists for health issues, transportation, State and local interviews, finance, Measure A, document writing, housing and redevelopment and Voting Matters-our cable program.

We need an open government person to handle open government including Sunshine Week. Alex Starr has done this in the past and will be happy to help you understand the subject, and the rest of the committee will assist you with the work. Alex is stepping up to become the Action Chair in November.

We also need a person to become our specialist on local environmental issues.

This should be an interesting portfolio using the information from Fremont’s Green Task Force. There are also several large projects to watch as they go through the development process.

We need a Community College specialist mostly to monitor Ohlone College issues as they arise.

This is a lively committee, and the members really like and support each other. You will find friends on this committee who will welcome you into the group.

Maybe you would just like to come and observe us in action and then decide if Action is the place in League for you. We will meet November 13 and December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Please let me know if you are interested in checking us out.

Call me at 657-1969 or email me at [singer756@sbcglobal.net](mailto:singer756@sbcglobal.net).

—Marilyn Singer

## THE STAMPING PARTY

The stamping party (Sets Amann, Vesta Wilson, Beth Templeton, my daughter Joan and grandson Alex and I) stamped and sorted Pros and Cons which the attendees of our kickoff graciously picked up and distributed. Thanks to everyone.

700 copies of the Easy Voter Guide were mostly distributed.

Altogether, we staffed four voter registration tables. Thanks to all who helped—Syeda Yunus, Alex, Starr, Andrea Schacter, Pat Lewis, Vesta Wilson, Judy Zlatnik, Sarabjit Cheema, Sets Amann and a non-member, Sharon Whitaker who called and asked if she could help.

We added Merrill Gardens, Carlton Plaza and Union City Alvarado Branch Post Office to our locations for registration forms.

—Barbara Friedrich

**The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area and The Bay Area Air Quality Management District Invite you to attend:**

## Public Health and Particulates

**SAVE THE DATE:**

Tuesday Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Preservation Park’s Nile Hall in Downtown Oakland

9 am Registration and Breakfast

9:15 am - noon – Forum

## NO CHARGE

A public health issue of growing concern: is particulate air pollution, which scientific study has linked to asthma and other serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Medical and scientific professionals will discuss these public health impacts and communications experts will explain how local Leagues and other concerned organizations can help increase public awareness on this issue.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has been a long time supporter of our *Bay Area Monitor*. They have asked us to co-sponsor a forum to reach Bay Area decision makers and League members about Public Health and Particulates. The timing of this forum coincides with the start of wood burning season. The BAAQMD is hoping that we can help clear up some of misinformation about the new regulations on wood burning. Please plan to attend.

## SOLUTIONS FOR A DELTA CRISIS By Gail Schickele, Bay Area Monitor

Building a peripheral canal to carry water around the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the most promising strategy to balance co-equal state policy goals of maintaining a sustainable ecosystem and assuring water supply reliability, according to a report recently released by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). The last time California considered this option, in June 1982, it was soundly rejected by a large majority of voters in Northern California, where some people continue to have concerns both about a canal leading to a "water grab" by Southern California and about the effects of a canal on the ecosystem.

"The canal of 1982 was a big canal designed to expand water exports," said PPIC Economist and Director of Research Ellen Hanak in presenting the research on July 18 in Sacramento. "What we're talking about here is not a canal to expand exports. It's a canal to restore reliability."

Hanak's presentation was before the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force, an eight-member body established in 2006 by executive order of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to develop a durable "Vision" for sustainable management of the Delta by the end of 2007. The Task Force did so with the publication of *Our Vision for the California Delta*; at that time, Task Force Chair Phil Isenberg noted, "The Delta is in crisis and each day brings us closer to a major disaster, be it from flooding, from the decline of important fish species, or from court-ordered reductions in the amount of water that can be pumped for the state's water supply." The Task Force is now drawing up a strategic plan to implement the Vision, and in the process has been receiving input from a wide range of organizations, such as the PPIC.

The PPIC report, *Comparing Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta*, builds on the Task Force Vision as well as findings from a 2007 PPIC study, and concurs that a new Delta strategy is urgent and critical. Authored by Hanak and a multi-disciplinary team of six experts from the University of California, Davis, *Comparing Futures* explores four viable options for Delta water exports:

- Continue the current strategy of through-Delta pumping;

- Build a peripheral canal, conveying water around the Delta;

- Operate a "dual conveyance" system, combining the first two strategies; or

- End water exports altogether, weaning much of California from the Delta as a water source.

"Any Delta strategy you have is going to fall into one of these four categories," offered environmental engineering professor Jay Lund, one of the six experts from UC Davis.

In a June 2008 letter to the governor, the Task Force recommended that dual conveyance is a strong choice, provided the design fully embraces the co-equal goals of a resilient ecosystem and reliable water supply.

The PPIC-UC Davis team concludes that a peripheral canal is not only more promising than the temporary and ultimately unsustainable dual conveyance option, but is also the best available long-term strategy to serve both water supply and environmental objectives. The report further concludes that although it would be best for fish populations if California stopped using the Delta as a water source altogether, this would be an extremely costly strategy.

"Our objective was to try to help inform the policy discussions and debates on the Delta and to try to bring some numbers to that from the best available scientific and technical analysis," Hanak said.

"Choosing a water strategy is just the first step," added Lund. "The technical, financial, and regulatory decisions necessary to plan for a new Delta are enormous. The governor and legislature need to be involved in setting up a new framework to manage the challenge."

The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is the largest estuary on the West Coast, a critical habitat to more than 500 native plant, fish and animal species, and a major hub of the state's water supply. It channels water from Northern California's watersheds to 23 million Californians — two-thirds of the state's households — and some three million acres of farmland in the Central Valley.

It is widely recognized that the Delta region

is now in serious long-term crisis. Many native fish populations are in decline and many Delta islands, artificially protected by aging levees, have become hollowed-out bowls that lie below sea level. The levees themselves are subject to increasing water pressure from tides and floods. A major earthquake could cause catastrophic failure of the levee system, jeopardizing water supplies from the Bay Area to San Diego. Exotic species and ecosystem change along with population growth and urbanization add to the stress on the region. Climate change pressures of rising sea levels and river flows may contribute to floods that could inundate many Delta towns, highways, energy corridors, railroads, and wildlife resources, wreaking economic havoc on agriculture and tourism.

The Task Force's Vision describes a future in which the Delta could continue to thrive over the coming generations as it faces earthquakes, regional climate change, rising sea level, subsidence, population growth, and invasive species. As Isenberg explained, "We started from the premise that the Delta ecosystem and a reliable water supply for the state are co-equal values, and that conflicts between them should be resolved by applying the state constitutional principles of 'public trust' and 'beneficial use.'"

In a summary of the Vision, the Task Force emphasized that "The Delta cannot be 'fixed' by any single action. No matter what policy choices are made, we Californians are compelled to change the ways we behave toward the environment and water."

The Vision's 12 integrated and linked recommendations include a significant increase in conservation and water system efficiency; new facilities to move and store water; likely reductions in the amount of water taken out of the Delta watershed; and a new governing structure for the Delta that would have secure funding and the

(Continued)



ability to approve spending, planning, and water export levels. Recommendations for near-term actions focus on preparing for disasters in or around the Delta (including emergency flood protection and disaster planning), protecting the Delta ecosystem and water supply system from urban encroachment, and making immediate improvements to protect the environment and the system that moves water through the Delta.

The Task Force is approaching finalization of the implementation plan for the Vision, formally titled the *Delta Vision Strategic Plan*. It will serve as a road map for the broad strategic directions that local, state, and federal governments and the people of California should pursue to make the Vision a reality. The most current draft of the plan makes recommendations in four major areas: governance and finance, ecosystem, water supply reliability, and "the Delta as Place."

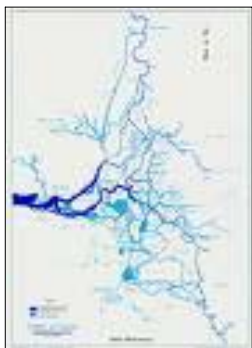
The plan is now in its last stages of public input from meetings conducted state-wide. A final strategic plan recommended by the Task Force will be submitted to a five-member Delta Vision Committee by October 31, 2008. The committee will review Task Force recommendations and report its findings to the governor, who will submit a report to the legislature by December 31, 2008 with the expectation that state policy will be enacted in 2009.

#### **FURTHER READING ABOUT DELTA ISSUES ONLINE**

[Our Vision for the California Delta](#) from the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force

[Delta Vision Strategic Plan Drafts](#) from the Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force

[Comparing Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta](#)



#### **WHAT DO YOU THINK OF CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM?**

As Californians have watched our state government grind to a virtual halt, there has been a growing sense that band-aid solutions to our problems may no longer be enough. The League has been approached by several groups who are calling for a constitutional convention to step back and take a look at our government structure from top to bottom. Proposals for reform encompass a range of areas, including most obviously the state budget and the initiative processes, but other areas such as elections have been mentioned. The LWVC will be a part of the discussions. Just what shape efforts at reform may take is not certain at this time, but the League will be at the table as the conversations develop.

As Californians have watched our state government grind to a virtual halt, there has been a growing sense that band-aid solutions to our problems may no longer be enough. The League has been approached by several groups who are calling for a constitutional convention to step back and take a look at our government structure from top to bottom. Proposals for reform encompass a range of areas, including most obviously the state budget and the initiative processes, but other areas such as elections have been mentioned. The LWVC will be a part of the discussions. Just what shape efforts at reform may take is not certain at this time, but the League will be at the table as the conversations develop.

#### **SAVING MONEY ON CALIFORNIA'S BUDGET PROCESS**

Over the last 15 years, nearly 20 different study groups have put forth more than 100 proposals aimed at reforming some feature of California's budget process. Despite all these studies and proposals, only one budget practice is actually used in the state today—and it's one that is unlikely to deliver much in the way of savings, according to a new study by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)

Budget practices—administrative mechanisms used to put the budget together each year—are key because they can make the complex budget process more efficient.

Using some practices rather than others could save taxpayers money and free up funds for critical public services.

One practice currently in effect in California is the mid-session revision—better known as the "May revision" or "May revise." However PPIC's analysis finds that this practice does not result in cost savings for the state. Moreover, states that use the mid-session revision do not spend significantly less than other states on putting their budgets together.

In contrast, three other budget practices not used in California have convincing money-saving potential. The one that could lead to the greatest savings is also the most politically challenging. "Legislative access" would give legislators a look at budget requests made by public agencies *before* the governor's budget is prepared and sent to them for debate—and could result in an average 2 percent savings per capita. "This could facilitate communication and make decision making more efficient," says the report's author, PPIC research fellow Jaime Calleja Alderete. "But it would require tough political negotiations."

Setting funding targets and implementing performance budgeting are two other practices that would likely contribute to a leaner budget process. The study, *Budget Practices and State Expenditures: Lessons for California*, notes that other high population states use more of the budget practices than California does.

The Public Policy Institute of California is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public policy in California through independent, objective, non-partisan research on major economic, social and political issues. The Institute was established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlitt.

For more information, go to <http://www.ppic.org/main/home.asp>



[www.ppic.org/main/home.asp](http://www.ppic.org/main/home.asp)



Clarifying Complex Education Issues®

## KEY FINDINGS: PERFORMANCE OF CHARTERS VS. NONCHARTERS

### **Charter elementary schools have lower average API scores**

The 196 charter elementary schools in this analysis are, on average, about 70% of the size of the noncharter elementary schools, and they serve somewhat more advantaged students.

After adjusting for differences in school size and School Characteristics Index (SCI) values, charter elementary schools score 9 points lower on the API, due mainly to charter students' scores on the California Standards Test in mathematics, which are lower by statistically significant margins. But when the 25 nonclassroom-based charters are excluded from the analysis, charters' deficit on the API disappears, the difference in math shrinks, and their advantage in English grows slightly.

### **Charter middle schools outperform noncharters**

The 57 charter middle schools are about one-third the size of noncharters on average, and they serve more disadvantaged students.

After adjusting for differences in school size and SCI values, charter middle schools score 45 points higher on the API. The findings are consistent across other performance measures and have also been stable over time.

### **Charter high schools have higher API scores but lower math scores than noncharters**

The 130 charter high schools are about one-fifth the size of noncharters, on average, and generally have lower SCI values.

After adjusting for differences between charters and noncharters in school size and SCI values, charter high schools score 14 points higher on the 2007 Growth API, despite lower scores in mathematics. When the 50 nonclassroom-based charters are excluded, charter high schools score higher than noncharters on all measures, including mathematics.

Along with these findings, this analysis offers a wealth of other comparisons and insight on the state's charter schools including:

- **Within Charter Comparisons—CMO Charters vs. Non-CMO Charters:** A substantial portion of the growth in the state's charter school segment in recent years has come from the creation and expansion of charter management organizations (CMOs). These schools represent nearly one-fifth of the charters in this study. CMO charters, on average, outperform other charters; but not all CMO-run charter schools are high achievers.
- **District Profiles: Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Diego Unified School Districts:** In three of the state's largest districts, Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Diego, charter schools have become relatively common. This report contains separate performance comparisons of charters and noncharters in these districts

This summary only skims the surface of the information available in this report. You will also find detailed "Vital Stats" on the state's charter schools as well a look at how closely districts are matching the state's new achievement benchmarks for charter school renewal. See [www.edsource.org](http://www.edsource.org) for the full report.



Clarifying Complex Education Issues®

School is about kids in classrooms and the teachers who educate them. But the typical school around the corner in California operates within a larger system of public education that affects who those children and teachers are, what they do every day, and how their progress is evaluated. In order to understand what is happening in California's public schools, why it's happening, and what changes could help schools do a better job, you need a sense of what that larger system looks like.

## Vital Statistics

September 2008

This section of the EdSource website provides some basic background and facts. It also directs you to more detailed explanations and data located elsewhere on our website.

### The students

California is by far the largest state and educates one in eight public school students in the United States.

About half of all California students are Latino and about a third are white.

California's students face particular academic challenges given that almost half of them are from low-income families and a quarter are identified as English learners.

### The system

The state contributes about \$6 out of every \$10 that goes to public education, and state leaders largely control how much funding each school district in California receives.

The state has nearly 1,000 school districts that range in size from a few students to about 700,000.

Each district has an elected school board that determines how to spend the money allocated by the state, but the board does so within the constraints of state and federal law and (with very few exceptions) collective bargaining commitments.

In 2006–07, California had more than 600 charter schools, serving 3.6% of the state's K–12 student population.

### The resources available

California's expenditures per pupil began losing ground compared with the national average in the late 1970s and have remained below the national average since 1982.

More than 80% of school expenditures are for salaries and benefits for certificated staff—including teachers, administrators, and other professionals—and classified staff, such as bus drivers, clerks, and cafeteria workers.

California public schools have only about three-quarters as many staff members as do schools on average in the United States.

Since 1998, California has invested more than \$70 billion (\$35.4 billion in state bonds plus \$36.5 billion in local bond measures) in improving and expanding its school facilities.

### The expectations for students

California's academic content standards, upon which the state bases its curriculum guidelines and assessments, rate high marks in national comparisons.

Based on the state's assessment and accountability systems, California's students and schools are making steady achievement gains but still fall short of ambitious state and federal goals.

### The achievement of California's students

The academic progress of African American and Latino students lags far behind that of white and Asian students.

Although improving slightly, California students' performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress

(NAEP) remains below the national average.

Based on the most comparable estimates, California's graduation rates are similar to the United States as a whole.

## CALIFORNIA WATER PLAN UPDATE—ADDRESSING OUR WATER WOES

Addressing our state's water woes has not been and will not be an easy task. However, the current plan does include increased involvement by other state agencies, tribal governments, educational, environmental, and community consulting groups. This "inclusive" involvement is much expanded from previous plans, and the integration of climate change, environmental justice, regional planning, flood management, and statewide management of several natural resources will be notable in the 2010 Plan.

The actual plan document is being edited for clarity, consistency, and applicability, to provide region-by-region compliance while allowing for region-to-region differences. To help understand what these regional considerations are and how they impact water supply and delivery systems, the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) has developed a series of interactive maps (access this multi-purpose, eco-friendly [Delta map](#) and then navigate to view other maps in the series).

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) is mandated to develop a statewide water plan every five years, on a '00 and '05 timeline. Jack Sullivan, past LWVC Natural Resources Director and currently the Natural Resources Director for the LWV Los Angeles County ILO, serves as the LWVC representative on the Water Plan Advisory Committee. LWVC board member Wendy Phillips has been appointed to serve as Jack's alternate, and will continue on as the LWVC representative as the planning process begins for the next Water Plan due to be completed by 2015.

For more Water Plan information and all presentations made during the second annual Water Plan Plenary, go to [www.water.ca.gov](http://www.water.ca.gov).





A BRIEF HISTORY OF LWVEF SPONSORSHIP OF PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES AND RELATED SUBJECTS

**LWVEF-SPONSORED PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES**

The LWVEF sponsored presidential debates in 1976, 1980 and 1984. The LWVEF also sponsored presidential primary debates in 1988 and 1992.

In 1980, the LWVEF adopted candidate participation criteria designed to meet Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulations. The three basic criteria were

- \* Constitutional eligibility
- \* Ballot accessibility (i.e., on the ballot in a sufficient number of states to have a mathematical possibility of winning a majority of Electoral College votes)
- \* Demonstrated significant voter support and interest (e.g. nomination by a major political party as defined in the Federal Election Campaign Act - or 15% voter support as determined by selected nationwide public opinion polls)

John Anderson initially met the three criteria and took part in the first debate, with Ronald Reagan. (Jimmy Carter declined to participate.) He later fell below the 15% support level, and the second debate featured Reagan and Carter.

In 1984, the LWVEF made a number of changes. First, the LWVEF stated its intention to sponsor one presidential debate to which only the nominees of the two major parties would be invited. Second, the indicators to be used to show "significant voter support and interest" for additional debates were changed. Instead of requiring a 15% polling result, significance would be assessed by considering a number of factors, including

- \* active campaigning in a number of states
- \* substantial recognition by the national media that a candidate merits serious national media attention
- \* such other factors that, in the LWVEF's good faith judgment, would provide evidence of nationwide voter interest, such as national voter poll results.

Using these standards, the LWVEF sponsored three presidential debates (between Reagan and Mondale) and one vice-presidential debate (between Bush and Ferraro).

**THE COMMISSION ON PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES**

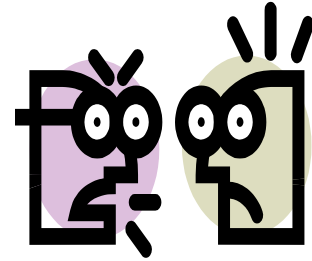
In 1988, the LWVEF again set out to sponsor presidential debates and adopted candidate participation criteria similar to those used in 1984.

Nancy Neuman describes what happened next in her book, *The League of Women Voters: In Perspective 1920-1995*:

"After the 1984 election, the chairs of the Democratic and Republican national committees announced that the parties, not the LWVEF, would sponsor the 1988 presidential debates. In 1987, they created the Commission on Presidential Debates. From 1985 through 1988, the LWVEF challenged political party debates sponsorship, resulting in broad editorial and public support. The LWVEF argued that voters deserved to see the candidates side by side in non-partisan debates that were not controlled by the campaigns. The parties claimed that only they could institutionalize debates and eliminate the quadrennial "debate about the debates."

"Both the LWVEF and the commission submitted debates proposals to the campaigns in 1988; the campaigns chose the LWVEF as sponsor of the final debate. But they also presented the LWVEF with "take it or leave it" rules designed to protect the candidates and mislead the voters. For example, the rules specified ultimate campaign control of press panellists and moderators, and prohibited follow-up questions and camera shots of the candidate not speaking. The LWVEF trustees voted to withdraw sponsorship, believing that the rules undermined the LWV's goal to educate voters and posed a potential threat to its nonpartisanship. As national president Nancy Neuman (1986-90) explained in a press conference, the LWV 'has no intention of becoming an accessory to the hoodwinking of the American public.'"

The Commission sponsored three debates between the major-party candidates that year, Bush and Dukakis.



From —LWVUS:

**D.C. VOTING RIGHTS**

Citizens for the District of Columbia have no representation in the U.S. Senate and only a non-voting delegate in the House of Representatives. A basic principle of democracy is at stake. U.S. citizens living in the capital of the free world deserve to have full voting representation in the bodies that make their laws, tax them and call them to war.

**LEAGUE AND PARTNERS URGE SENATE TO REJECT HR6842 AS AMENDED IN THE HOUSE—  
September 30, 2008**

The League and coalition partners sent a letter to Senators urging them to reject HR 6842, the National Capital Security and Safety Act, because it would strip Washingtonians of their power to enact local gun laws. The House of Representatives substituted language that creates serious threats to public safety and homeland security and strips Washingtonians of their power to enact local gun laws. The house passed the substitute bill on September 17 by a vote of 266—152.

## MORE ON THE HISTORY OF DEBATES

This afternoon I heard a discussion on Democracy Now about the history of the Presidential Debates. I learned about the role of the League of Women Voters in those debates between 1976 and 1984. I was dismayed to hear how the debates are orchestrated today. —Lora Lucero (Albuquerque)

Guest:

**George Farah**, executive director and founder of Open Debates. He is the author of *No Debate: How the Republican and Democratic Parties Secretly Control the Presidential Debates*.

**JUAN GONZALEZ**: Well, walk us through how we got to this stage, who originally was sponsoring these debates years back, and how this secretive nonprofit organization gained control of them.

**GEORGE FARAH**: We used to have a fantastic, genuinely nonpartisan presidential debate sponsor: the League of Women Voters. From 1976 until 1984, the League of Women Voters hosted our most important public forums, and they made sure the debates served the public interest rather than the interest of any political party. And they had the guts to stand up to the two major parties.

In 1980, for example, former Republican Congressman John Anderson ran as an Independent for the president of the United States. President Jimmy Carter adamantly refused to debate him, but the League said, "You know what, Mr. President? Too bad." And they hosted a presidential debate between Ronald Reagan and John Anderson that was watched by over 40 million people.

Fast-forward four years later, the Walter Mondale and Ronald Reagan campaigns actually vetoed sixty-eight of the moderators that the League of Women Voters had proposed for the three debates. What did the League do? They issued a scathing public press release castigating the candidates for abusing the process, and the Reagan and Mondale campaigns were forced to accept aggressive moderators.

Again, four years later, the League of Women Voters were refusing to implement any contract that was negotiated by the George Bush and Dukakis campaigns. They had negotiated the first secret contract, a twelve-page memoranda of understanding,

that dictated who would participate and how the format would be structured. The League said, "This is an outrage!"

**AMY GOODMAN**: You mean that that was longer than the initial proposal for the \$700 billion bailout?

**GEORGE FARAH**: Nine pages longer. And they absolutely refused to implement the contract. Well, guess what. The parties did not like the fact that an uppity women's organization, pro-democracy, was telling their boys who could participate in their debates and under what condition. And so, in 1987, they created this private corporation called the Commission on Presidential Debates. It sounds like a government agency; it's not. And every four years, it awards absolute control to the Republican and Democratic parties over our political forums.

**JUAN GONZALEZ**: And who sponsors this organization?

**GEORGE FARAH**: Well, that makes things even worse. Unfortunately, much of the money that finances the presidential debates that are hosted by the Commission on Presidential Debates are private corporations that have regulatory interests before Congress. Anheuser-Busch has spent the most money of any company in the United States on presidential debates, which is partly why every four years we get a debate in St. Louis, and we don't have a debate this year in New Orleans, which is dying for a debate, and massive civic groups were demanding that a debate be held there to highlight some of Katrina's problems.

Another consequence of corporate sponsorship is that the corporations are able to give a contribution this way to both parties. You know, we have limitations in this country. Corporations can't give direct contributions to the candidates. Well, the Commission provides an end-run around. When a corporation gives money to the Commission on Presidential Debates, it knows it is giving money to both the Republican and Democratic parties, supporting their duopoly over our political process and excluding third party voices that may be hostile to corporate power. And all four third party candidates that are on ballots this year are sharply critical of growing corporate power.

**AMY GOODMAN**: Who are the co-chairs of the Commission?

**GEORGE FARAH**: Well, you've got Frank Fahrenkopf and Paul Kirk. These guys have run this presidential debate process for twenty years. They first incorporated in 1988. At the time, Amy, they were the heads of the Republican and Democratic parties. And they still—they still run our presidential debates.

And it shouldn't be surprising that these guys are willing to sacrifice the integrity of the political process to serve partisan or private interest, because they're registered lobbyists. Paul Kirk has lobbied on behalf of the pharmaceutical industry. And Frank Fahrenkopf is the nation's leading gambling lobbyist; he is the president of the American Gaming Association. These are the guys deciding who gets to participate in the most important political forums in the United States of America.

**JUAN GONZALEZ**: But now, there have been occasions when a third party candidate did get in. Obviously, Ross Perot managed to get in some of the debates back in '92. Now, what have they been doing in terms of that?

**GEORGE FARAH**: Well, Juan, in 1992, the only reason Ross Perot got in the presidential debates is because the candidates refused to exclude him. That's it. If the candidates had wanted him out, if Bill Clinton had wanted him out, he would have been out.

Four years later, though, when Ross Perot ran again, he was polling exactly the amount he was polling prior to the debates in 1992; he was polling at nine percent. He had \$36 million in taxpayer funds. And yet, he was excluded. Why? Because behind closed doors, Bill Clinton and Bob Dole struck a deal. Bill Clinton agreed to exclude Perot as long as Bob Dole agreed that there would be only two debates instead of three debates, that they would abolish follow-up questions, and that they would schedule those debates opposite the World Series. Bill Clinton was winning by about twenty points in the polls, and he didn't want anyone watching these debates or any difficult questions challenging his authority. And that's exactly what happened. Perot was excluded, despite \$35 million in taxpayer funds. The debates were held opposite the World Series, resulting in the lowest viewership ever. No follow-up questions. Only two debates. And the American people had no idea, because the Commission on Presidential Debates secretly implemented the contract and took all the flak.

**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 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 - \$60 \_\_\_\_\_ Household - \$90 \_\_\_\_\_

Donate to LWVNUC \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_



voting

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: Sarabjit Cheema—sarabjitkaurcheema@yahoo.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.

PO Box 3218

Fremont, CA, 94539

510-794-5783

President:: Syeda Yunus

Treasurer: Carolyn Hedgecock

Editor: Vesta Wilson

**THE ARGUMENTS OF THE ANTI-SUFFRAGISTS**

**The arguments of the "antis," of suffrage were divided into two categories. Their arguments were based on the conception of the unique nature of women or "from their interpretation of the special role played by the family in sustaining civilization."**

**THE SECOND AREAS OF DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN**

The second areas of difference between men and women which the antis argued was the issue of morality. "An anti who spoke at a hearing in Connecticut on woman suffrage observed that "The most convincing reason I have heard given was the one offered by Miss Pearson 'We want the ballot, and we want it when we want it.' That is the old story of woman-Eve. She got it and we've had trouble ever since."

**WHAT THE ANTI'S PREDICTED IF WOMEN GOT THE VOTE**

The antis predicted that if women were given the vote disastrous results would occur. The antis believed that political involvement would place them in situations where their vulnerability would be exploited.

The antis also worried that women would vote more than once. They said that women could hide extra ballots in their voluminous sleeves and slip them quickly into the ballot box.



Nonprofit  
 Organization  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit # 445  
 Fremont, California

**WATCH VOTING MATTERS**

Tune in to watch Nina Moore interview Cheryl Cook-Kalio.

Topic: Civic Education **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>

**CALENDAR**

Thurs., Nov. 13	Action Committee	12:30 Brown bag lunch	Kay Emanuele's home
Fri., Nov. 14	Education Committee	9:30 AM	Miriam Keller's home
Mon., Nov. 17	League Public Meeting—Three City Managers	7:00 PM	Silliman Center, Newark
Wed., Nov. 19	Cable Taping	2:00 PM	Comcast Studios
Thurs., Nov. 20	LWVFUNC Board Meeting	7:15	3375 Country Drive
Fri., Nov. 21	Voter Deadline		
Thurs., Nov 27	Thanksgiving		