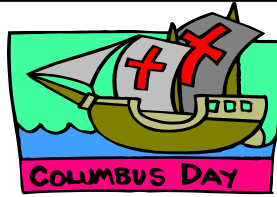


Voter

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



October 12



YOU ARE INVITED—2006 ELECTION FORUMS



Tues. Oct 3rd — Newark City Council Chambers

7:00PM to 7:30PM—State Senate District 10- 1 seat, 2 candidates: Ellen Corbett, Lou Filipovich

7:40PM to 8:10PM—East Bay Regional Park District—Ward 5- 1 seat, 2 candidates: Frank Pirrone, Ayn Wieskam

8:15PM to 9:00PM—AC Transit District 2, Ward 5 , 1 seat, 2 candidates: Joe Bischofberger, Jeff Davis

Director at Large—1 seat, 2 candidates: Rebecca Dawn, James Muhammad

Wed. Oct. 4th — Ohlone College Studio

7:00PM to 7:45PM—Ohlone Board – Seat 2 and Seat 7, 2 candidates for each:

Seat 2: Jill Giovannini-Hill, John Weed

Seat 7: OLGA Borjon, Richard Watters

8:00PM to 8:30PM—Alameda County Water District—2 seats, 3 candidates: Ash Bhatt, Judy Huang, Arthur Lampert

Wed., Oct. 11 — Comcast Studio

7:30 to 8:15 PM —Fremont City Council—2 seats, 4 candidates: Bill Harrison, Anu Natarajan, Alan Sterling, Linda Susoev (This forum co-sponsored with AAUW)

Thurs., Oct. 12 — Comcast Studio

7:00PM to 8 PM—Washington Hospital—3 seats, 5 Candidates: Jacob Eapen, Bernard Stewart, Steve Strayer, Gwen Todd, Michael Wallace

8:15 to 8:30 PM—Interview with State Assembly District 20, Ken Nishimura

Because we have so many forums, we will not have an October General Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to all who have been working so hard on all the projects and activities that we have.

Our thanks to our Action committee for working all summer and even scheduling an extra meeting to prepare questions for our candidate forums.

Our thanks to all those involved in Voter Service, preparing the Voter Information Booklets, participating in registration drives, filling registration boxes, scheduling candidate forums and participating in and attending candidate forums.

That last item is very important. An audience lets the candidates know that you think the office is important, that you think the democratic process is important. It also allows you to meet the candidate before or after the forum. It becomes too impersonal if you rely on the cable programs for your input. I will repeat what our eminent and astute Voter Editor wrote in the "extra" Voter. "All the flyers you get in the mail and all the posters you see on fences and lawns are no substitute for seeing and hearing candidates "in the flesh".

See you at the next candidate forum.

—Miriam Keller

**BOARD BRIEFS**

At the 9/14 Board meeting, the Board

- agreed to plan something for Constitution Day (Sept. 17) next year,
- will encourage the membership to attend the League's candidate forums by mailing an extra one-page Voter,
- discussed League participation on Measure K,
- heard report that the 11 candidate forums are scheduled, and
- thanked the committee working on the Voter Information Booklets (We will be producing one for Union City this year also.)

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

Proposition 1B—Yes
1C —Yes
1D—Yes
1E—Yes

Proposition 84—Yes
85—No
86—Yes
88—No
89—Yes

Proposition 90—No
83—No position:
1A—Neutral
87—Neutral

For more detailed information, see your September Voter



Weekender's Fashion Fundraiser Drop By Sat. or Sun. Oct. 14 and 15

Night Blue, Cinnabar, Chocolate, Evergreen, Cancun, Imperial Blue, and Chartreuse, along with Black and some Cardinal Reds and Whites as well as new patterns. The new fall colors are here, with something to complement everyone's wardrobe and body style. Lots of styles and fabrics to choose from - a quilted vest, or gauchos, or a striped suit, animal or paisley prints! These clothes are comfortable, fashionable, easy care, flattering and also perfect for traveling.

Come on Saturday and browse the LWV Garage Sale on your way to shop! Official Open House hours are Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. and Sunday 12:00-3:00, but any sales to LWV members and friends that occur in the week prior also count toward the fundraiser. So, don't hesitate to call and schedule an alternate appointment. Any weekday after 3:00 p.m. can work.

2754 Olive Ave., Fremont (near Washington Blvd. intersection) Alternate appts. 656-0459

Let your clothing dollars benefit the LWV Ed Fund!

—Holly Walter

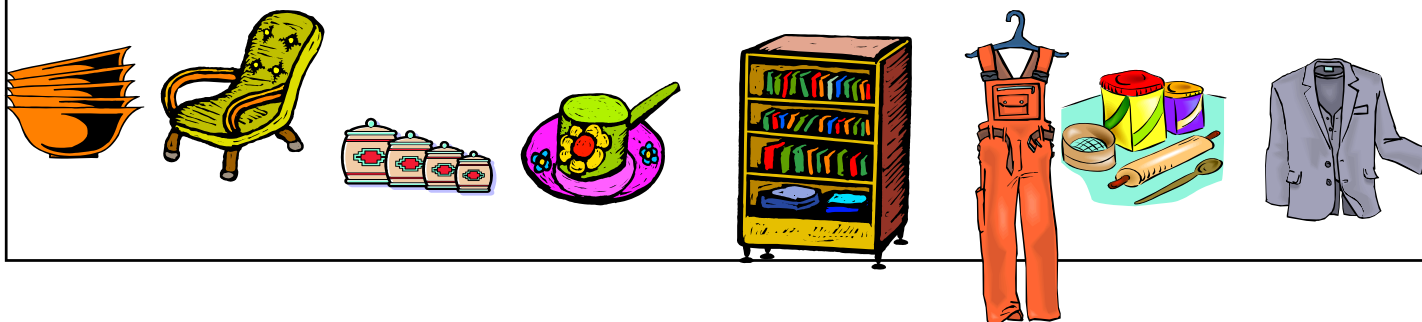
ANNUAL GARAGE SALE—Saturday, OCTOBER 14

Once again, It is time to clean out your closets, garages and storage units and donate your treasures to the Annual Garage Sale.

Garage Sale items can be dropped off at Holly's house (please take all items through side yard to the patio) starting Sunday October 8. 2754 Olive Ave, Fremont, near the intersection of Washington Blvd.

Garage Sale pricing will take place at Holly's house Friday night October 13. Come from 5:00 on and stay for Pizza!

Helpers for the sale will be needed. Please call Allison Kieft (657-8454) if you can help.



DOUBLE HITTER

A League Committee has again produced a Voter Information Book that will go to every household in Fremont where there are registered voters. This year a book will also be done for voters in Union City. Every person running for local office was invited to participate and the groups supporting and opposing local measures were also invited. Enough participants responded so that both books became viable.



It has been a huge effort chaired by John Smith. The League members that worked with him are Jean Holmes, Gus Morrison, Charlie Scribner, Kay Emanuele, Jane Mueller, Sundaram Natara-jan, and Marilyn Singer.

Watch for your Voter Information Book to be delivered the same day that Absentee Ballots arrive, and when you see John, tell him a big thank you from the League!

——Marilyn Singer

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee has a new chairperson, Ann Crosbie. Welcome, Ann.

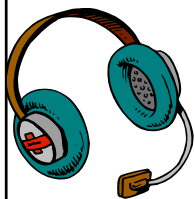
The committee studies legislation affecting education, the three school boards' actions, budget matters, local, state and national, No Child Left Behind, test scores and more, The committee invites others interested in education to join us.

——Vesta Wilson
Former chair

**PLEA FOR PARTICIPANTS IN
"VOTING MATTERS"**

Do you want to have a lot of fun, work with interesting people, meet people like city officials, candidates, education authorities, operate a big TV camera? attach microphones on guests' clothing, arrange a pleasing set, say "Quiet on the set" in an authoritative voice, wear a fetching headset, set up microphone connections, regulate the sound, adjust the lighting, be a director?

Then join Miriam Keller, John Smith, Kay Emanuele, Ursel Bloxsom, Vesta Wilson and Alex Starr for just a couple hours a month at Comcast Studios to produce "Voting Matters".



We have just six on our crew. We have to have five crew members in order to produce a show. If some are sick, on vacation or otherwise unable to come, we cannot tape that day. Training is available to do this fascinating job right here in Fremont. There you will learn the ins and outs of producing a TV show. How can you resist?

——from your Cable Crew

The Member Directory and Information Handbook will be delivered or mailed to you soon. Many thanks to the Membership Committee, Sister Marjorie Wakelin, Sam Neeman, and Peter Starr.

THE QUESTION—Measure L

Should the voters of Fremont approve a 4% utility user tax based on charges for electric and gas utilities for a period of 6 years?

THE SITUATION

Difficult economic times and State takeaways of City tax monies have caused significant reduction in Fremont revenue in the past few years. The budget has been cut 25%, staff has been reduced by 224 positions and cost saving measures have been instituted across the board. Many Police and Fire services were reduced or dropped. Funding for street maintenance, parks and public facilities was reduced. Safety services and maintenance amount to nearly 90% of the annual budget. Senior services and library hours have been cut back. To balance the 2006-2007 budget, funds from the City's saving account were required. A Citizens' Task Force was assembled to meet with Fremont residents and to suggest a possible solution. Measure L is the proposed solution.

THE PROPOSAL

Measure L establishes a 4% general tax based on charges for gas and electricity which would automatically expire in 6 years. The measure provides exemptions for low income residents, sets caps for large business utility users and requires a citizen oversight committee and annual audits to review and report on how the tax is utilized. A simple majority (50% plus 1) is required to pass a general tax measure. General funds are used for the day to day operation of the City.

FISCAL EFFECT

The Utility Users Tax could raise as much as \$8 million for the General Fund to be used for general City expenditures. The average residence with a \$100 PG&E bill would pay an additional \$4 per month.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- ☐ Measure L would give Fremont money that the State could not take away.
- ☐ Critical Police and Fire services could be restored to increase your personal safety.
- ☐ Street maintenance and parks could be funded at former levels.
- ☐ 4000 Fremont citizens and community leaders helped write Measure L.

- ☐ Exemptions are provided for low income families. Business viability is capped.
- ☐ The tax has a Sunset clause and expires in 6 years.
- ☐ A Citizens' Oversight Committee and audit will review how the tax is spent.
- ☐ \$4 a month is a small price to pay to end fire station brown outs, repair streets and potholes, and maintain police service levels.
- ☐ Don't be fooled by irresponsible rhetoric, a safe City with good roads and services hangs in the balance.

OPPONENTS SAY

- ☐ The utility tax is not needed; the city receives nearly \$40 million a year from your property taxes.
- ☐ Fremont's fiscal picture has improved in the last 2 years since the previous utility tax was defeated.
- ☐ Taxpayer-funded retirement contributions for city staff are rising.
- ☐ Annual compensation packages for Fremont's management team average over \$200,000 per year.
- ☐ Fremont residents pay about the highest property tax per capita in the County.
- ☐ Fremont receives about \$250 million from all sources.
- ☐ The Utility Tax is nothing more than a money grab. Vote NO on this proposal.
- ☐ They exempt low-income households and limit what business will pay; the middle class will bear the burden.
- ☐ The oversight committee has no power.
- ☐ Instead of higher taxes we need leadership in Fremont that will stop spending money on itself through inexcusable compensation packages.

For more information:

Supporters: City of Fremont: www.Fremont.org

Opponents: Waste Watcher, Inc. 510-794-8797

THE QUESTION—Measure K

Should the voters of Fremont approve an Initiative to change the zoning of a 520 acre parcel of land in the Northern Plain of the City?

THE SITUATION

In recent years various plans have been put forward to develop a portion of Fremont's Northern Plain. The area covered by the Initiative is comprised of two private holdings, the Patterson Ranch (428 acres) and the Cargill Salt property (92 acres). Since 1868, the Patterson family has owned the Initiative's 428 acre parcel plus acreage that is now Coyote Hills Regional Park and the Historic Ardenwood Farm. The Patterson property has approximately 87 acres of wetland and riparian areas; the Cargill property has approximately 45 acres of wetlands. These areas are saved in all development scenarios whether the Initiative passes or not.

THE PROPOSAL

The Initiative proposes to change the current zoning on the 520 acres to Agriculture and allow the land to be divided into 9 private fenced lots

Eighty acre lots may have a development site of 20,000 sq. ft. of floor area and smaller lots may have a floor area of at least 10,000 sq. ft. based on parcel size. All building must be within a 2 acre site.

The land could be used for various purposes such as horticulture, grazing and low intensity commercial uses. The Initiative states that no development or use is permitted that would impair a habitat or reduce the number of special-status species.

There are incentives for the owners to donate the entire parcel to the East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the Wildlife Refuge or the City of Fremont. Approximately 100 homes could be built in exchange for the land donation.

All provisions of the Initiative are final and can only be changed by a vote of the people.

FISCAL EFFECT

The City has anticipated annual revenue of \$1,000,000 from industrial tax base from the 92 acre Cargill property. The Initiative eliminates this "Restricted Industrial" usage.

Current owners estimate, and the City concurs, that the

City will probably face suits for up to \$50,000,000 from the two owners. There is no provision in the Initiative to raise this money. A recent poll showed that only 10% of Fremont residents would be willing to tax themselves for the purchase of any public open space in this area.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- ☐ We must protect the natural heritage and wildlife of Coyote Hills from massive new housing development, prevent unnecessary street traffic, save taxpayer money and preserve our quality of life.
- ☐ We must act now before it is too late.
- ☐ We should designate the land for agriculture, uses supportive of open space and a small number of rural homes.
- ☐ We should insure that the long-term decisions in the Initiative can only be changed by a vote of the people.

OPPONENTS SAY

- ☐ The Initiative promises parkland and delivers 9 residential estates, fenced off and closed to the public.
- ☐ The Initiative promises protection of wetlands and natural species but puts no practices in place to protect them.
- ☐ Fremont taxpayers face the risk of having to pay current landowners \$50,000,000 with no plans in place to raise the money.
- ☐ The City of Fremont will lose thousands of jobs and approximately \$1,000,000 a year in tax revenues.
- ☐ The best way to develop land is to use the regular planning process which includes an Environmental Review, the Planning Commission process, public hearings and finally the City Council process. If the public is not pleased with the plan that is produced, it can be challenged by a referendum.

For more information:

Supporters: Friends of Coyote Hills: www.fchf.org

Opponents: Committee Against the Patterson Ranch Initiative

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM: PARENTAL**NOTIFICATION BACK AGAIN ON THE
NOVEMBER BALLOT**

The following is from Sheila Hoff, Reproductive Choice Program Director:

In November 2005 California voters defeated Proposition 73, the attempt to force minors to have their parents notified when they sought medical attention for their pregnancy. A similar measure, Proposition 85, has qualified to be on the ballot in November 2006. The initiative is titled the "Parents' Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative." The League of Women Voters of California opposes this measure as we did Proposition 73 last year. The League of Women Voters of California will be referenced as opposing this measure in the ballot argument.

The League of Women Voters of California firmly believes that Parental Notification does not change parental communication nor improve it. We believe the health risk to teenagers is very real when they live in a dangerous home, and wait to seek medical care. As we have stated before, teens mostly turn to their parents, but if they cannot they should turn to someone they are comfortable with. This initiative boxes them in and requires that parents be notified or that the teenager go before a judge to be granted a waiver. Either way the teenager will be subjected to delays in dealing with their situation.

The defeat of this proposition will require education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of California has a role to play in this process. Local Leagues should gear up for education and advocacy and create a plan in local communities to engage in this process. Local leagues should also engage local League members in this education and advocacy effort.

The proponents of this proposition think that the last election was so heavily focused on an overall NO campaign that it was an anomaly that Parental Notification lost. We have to prove that they are wrong. The rhetoric in this campaign will likely be harsher and the proponents are likely to focus on this measure as a way to stop teen predators on the Internet. We know that the two issues are not related, and we need to be ready to counter this ploy.

This is yet another effort to restrict legal abortion and it is important to remember that, if passed, this proposition will be placed in the California Constitution. —John D. Sullivan, *Legislation Director*, legislation@lwc.org

OPPORTUNITY

Jeff Davis, Transportation Program Director, tendered his resignation. Jeff will be a candidate for elective office for Alameda County. His resignation has been accepted and the Natural Resources Director asks your help and suggestions to fill this very important function as an off-board position. Please forward name and contact information of League members who are good communicators and have the interest and background to work with transportation-related legislative issues, attend local or regional hearings and public meetings, and work well within a committee structure
—Charolette Fox, *Natural Resources Director*, natural_resources@lwc.org

**HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION
ELECTIONS**

The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund in partnership with LWV Eden Area is sponsoring a 1/2 day training session on Homeowner Association Elections to prepare League members to become election inspectors as required by new law SB 61.

Tuesday, October 3, 10:00 AM—2:00 PM
San Lorenzo Community Hall, 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

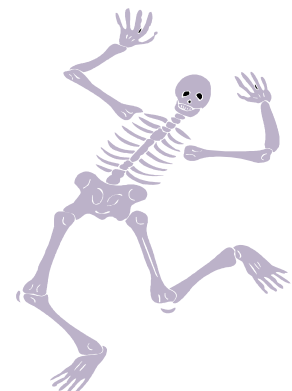
Sarabjit K Cheema

Pritam Singh Cheema

Janet Crocker

Trang Ha Vwong

**HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**



MORE TRADE, LESS POLLUTION: STATE BOARD'S AMBITIOUS PLAN

California has seen a rapid rise in the amount of freight moving through the state. Much of it comes on ships, largely from Asia, and it travels inland by rail and truck, headed for distribution centers in the Central Valley and across the country. Goods movement energizes the economy, but it comes with a cost—the impact of air pollution on the environment and the health of communities near goods movement hubs and corridors.

In conjunction with a state Goods Movement Action Plan to capitalize on new trade opportunities, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) was charged with preparing an accompanying plan to protect the air quality and health of communities affected by increased goods movement. In April 2006, CARB adopted the Emission Reduction Plan for Ports and Goods Movement in California. It presents an ambitious plan to turn back the upward trend in air pollution created by goods movement, despite the predicted increase in port activity and associated trucking and rail miles.

The primary pollutants from goods movement are ozone and particulate matter (PM), which includes diesel soot and nitrate and sulfate particles. CARB staffers evaluated health risk studies showing increased risks of illness and premature death from these pollutants, and quantified the economic impact of these health effects. They also met with residents of highly impacted communities during 2005-2006.

The information they gathered indicated that not only should pollution not go up, it should go down to protect communities from the impacts of goods movement.

Even with extremely clean ships, trucks and locomotives, pollution will increase as shipping increases. Since existing transportation is not extremely clean, at today's activity level there are emissions problems already near ports, rail yards and high traffic corridors. Cleaning up these sources means dealing with "legacy" fleets with durable but dirty diesel engines that need either pollution control retrofits or replacement. Key emission sources include not only heavy diesel trucks and locomotives, but also ships, harbor craft such as tugs, and cargo handling equipment at the ports. In 2005, according to CARB figures, these sources emitted 53 tons per day of diesel particulate matter, over half of it from trucks

and about 20% from ships.

However, by 2020, under the new plan, CARB estimates that diesel PM will be reduced to 36 tons per day, with the share from trucks down to the 20% range and the largest proportion coming from ships, which are less subject to CARB regulation.

According to the resolution approved by the CARB board in April, the plan sets five goals:

- ▶ Reduce total statewide international and domestic goods movement emissions to the greatest extent possible and at least back to 2001 levels by year 2010.

- ▶ Reduce the statewide diesel PM health risk 85% by 2020

- ▶ Reduce NO_x emissions from international goods movement in the South Coast 30% from projected 2015 levels, and 50% from projected 2020 levels, based on preliminary targets for attaining federal air quality standards

- ▶ Apply emission reduction strategies for ports and goods movement statewide to aid all regions in attaining air quality standards

- ▶ Make every feasible effort to reduce localized risk in communities adjacent to goods movement facilities as expeditiously as possible.

The fifth goal responds to the strongly voiced environmental justice concerns of local communities, including Bay Area participants such as Margaret Gordon from West Oakland. The CARB resolution also commits to an open process of implementing the plan and associated regulation adoption, with as much involvement as possible by all affected stakeholders.

If implemented fully, the plan will more than meet the first goal, bringing emissions 20-40% below 2001 levels. It will also meet the second, third and fourth goals. The plan is estimated to cut premature deaths by 1500 per year by 2020, with a corresponding reduction in illnesses such as asthma, bronchitis and heart and lung disease. The estimated cost to implement the plan through 2020 is \$6-10 billion. According to CARB, with goods movement putting more than \$200 billion per year into the state's economy, the plan would provide \$3-8 in benefits for each dollar spent on controls.

Implementation will require both new strategies and more intensive use of existing strategies. Retrofits for existing engines and incentives to replace older, dirtier engines are already being utilized

but can be stepped up. A relatively new technology for ships and harbor craft is "cold-ironing"—vessels plugging into shore-based power to keep systems running while they are sitting at the dock. The Port of San Francisco recently announced that shore-based power would be added to its facilities for cruise ships.

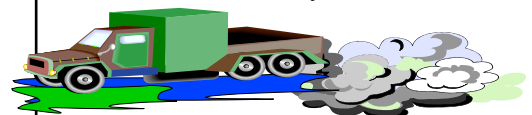
CARB has already moved ahead with regulations on low sulfur fuel for trucks, equipment, harbor craft and locomotives used only in California. It has imposed truck idling limits and a ban on cruise ship incineration. Other recent rulemakings have affected marine auxiliary engine fuels, cargo handling equipment fleets and trucks crossing the border from Mexico. In the next two years, CARB also plans regulations or other emission reduction strategies for port trucks and privately-owned truck fleets, low sulfur marine propulsion jet fuel, "cold-ironing", harbor craft engine standards and fleet requirements, and upgrading locomotives used in rail yards.

Although comments on the draft plan indicated that many responders would like to see the "no net increase" approach in Goal #1 applied to all sectors by 2010, this would not be feasible unless the number of ships docking at California ports is restricted. In response to this, the board resolution included a commitment to work to bring cleaner ships to California ports.

The state Goods Movement Action Plan will rely on the CARB plan to set emission targets by corridor for the milestone points of 2010, 2015 and 2020, and it calls on CARB to verify progress toward those targets. CARB will begin tracking its own plan beginning with a report in November 2006 and every six months thereafter. Because of the central role of goods movement in the state's economy, air pollution regulations aimed at minimizing emissions from goods movement will touch almost every type of commercial vehicle and affect many communities, even those remote from ports and distribution centers. The Goods Movement Emission Reduction Plan provides a unifying focus and structure for the effort to improve the state's air quality without impairing a major segment of the economy.

—Leslie Stewart,

Bay Area Monitor



September 2006

VOTER GUIDE



Proposition 1D: Kindergarten–University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006

If passed on Nov. 7, this bond measure would provide \$10.416 billion in facilities funds for public education. The bulk of the funding—\$7.329 billion—is earmarked for K–12 schools, with the remaining \$3.087 billion for higher education.

Like past California school bond measures, Proposition 1D has funds for new school construction and modernization, overcrowded schools, and joint-use projects. But Proposition 1D allocates a larger portion of the funds to modernization than in recent measures and is unique in several ways. Proposition 1D:

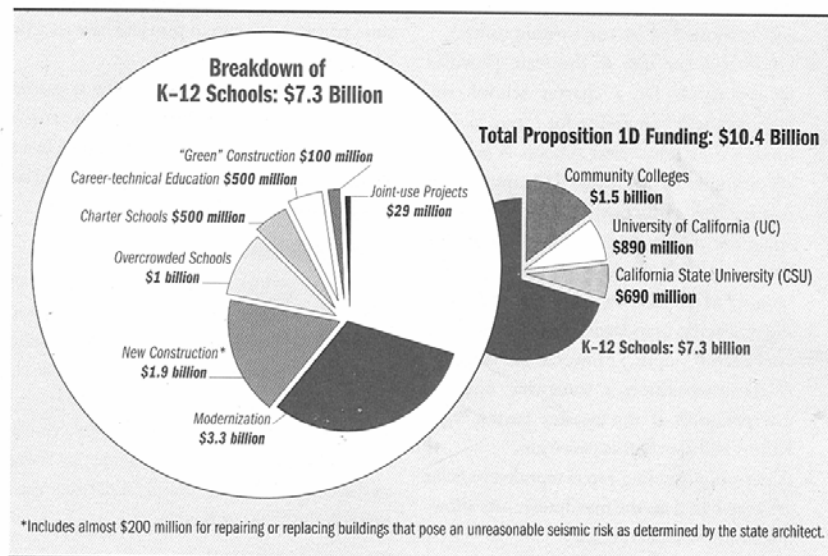
- Provides the largest sum ever for **charter schools**—\$500 million—and makes it easier for them to obtain funding for facilities.
- Allocates \$500 million for new or reconfigured **career-technical education** facilities and equipment.
- Allows up to \$200 million of the new construction and modernization funding to be used for **small high schools** or “schools within a school.”
- Allocates \$100 million for incentive grants for **environmentally friendly construction**.
- Requires that \$200 million of the \$890 million allocated to the University of California be used to support medical education programs, with an emphasis on **telemedicine** (long-distance medical care using computers and telecommunication devices).

Furthermore, Proposition 1D is part of a bipartisan package of ballot measures (1A through 1E)—approved by two-thirds of the state Legislature and signed by the governor. The package includes \$37.3 billion in bonds to shore up the state’s infrastructure.

Bonds help provide needed classrooms

Most California school districts rely on state-issued general obligation bonds to help them fund school facilities. To qualify for state money, districts must supply matching funds. For new construction, the state and district each pay half the cost. For modernization projects, the state pays 60% and districts pay 40%. Hardship cases, as defined by the Office of Public School

figure 1 | How Proposition 1D funding would be distributed



EdSource 9/06

Construction (OPSC), are exempt from some or all the matching funds requirement.

Over the past decade, voters have approved a total of \$28.1 billion in state bonds for K–12 school facilities, according to the Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO). About \$3.7 billion of these funds had not been spent as of June 2006, according to the OPSC.

However, the OPSC estimates that over the next five years (2006–07 through 2011–2012) California will need more than \$6 billion in state matching funds to build 18,000 new classrooms. Another \$5.3 billion will be needed to modernize more than 61,000 classrooms that are 25 years or older. Together the new and remodeled classrooms would serve almost 2.1 million K–12 students.

Crowded schools and joint-use projects

Under Proposition 1D, \$1 billion will be available to districts with severely overcrowded schools to replace portable classrooms with new permanent classrooms, unless the portables are being used to implement a class size reduction program. The districts would also have to remove portables from overcrowded

school sites and reduce the total number of portables within the district. The LAO estimates that 1,800 schools (or about 20% of all schools) are eligible for this funding, which requires a 50% local match except for hardship cases.

The measure also sets aside \$29 million to build or reconfigure existing joint-use facilities, which are used by K–12 schools and other public entities, such as libraries or colleges. And the state can use up to \$21 million from previous bond measures for such purposes. In addition, community colleges, CSU, and UC must annually consider building or remodeling facilities that could be jointly used by more than one higher education institution.

Charter schools

Proposition 1D supports the growing charter school movement and relieves pressure on school districts, which are required to provide charter schools of a certain size with facilities that are equal to other district facilities. Besides allocating \$500 million, Proposition 1D has rules governing the distribution of funds, including some that change existing law:

- Charter schools that meet certain requirements can apply directly to the state for funding to modernize school facilities.
- The measure gives preference to charters that use existing district facilities. In addition, funds are to be distributed fairly across the state and among grade levels, with preference given to charters that are located in overcrowded districts or low-income areas and to those that are run by nonprofits.
- Under current law, if the state provides facility funds for a charter school, the school district's eligibility for future facility funds for its noncharter schools is reduced accordingly. Proposition ID appears to require this reduction in eligibility only when the charter school provides seats for the district's "unhoused" pupils. (If the number of pupils in a district exceeds seating capacity standards, the district has "unhoused" pupils.) However, the language in the proposition is somewhat open to interpretation. If the measure passes, regulations will clarify this provision.
- A per-pupil funding cap is repealed in favor of a cap based on the maximum costs allowable for new construction.

To qualify, charter school operators must show that they have a track record for operating fiscally sound schools. A 50% local match is also required but can be borrowed from state bond funds and paid back over time.

Career-tech education

Proposition ID reflects the growing interest in revitalizing career-tech or vocational education to help students—particularly those who may not be college bound—prepare for the more sophisticated requirements of today's job market. Advocates also say that hands-on career-tech programs encourage students to stay in high school.

To be eligible for the \$500 million in facilities funding, school districts, county offices of education, and direct-funded charter schools must match state funds (50%) with their own funds or money from private industry groups or a joint powers authority (such as a regional occupational center). The local contribution can be borrowed from state bond funds and paid back over time. In addition, those seeking funding must develop a comprehensive career-tech plan and have an active career-tech advisory committee.

Only high schools can get new construction funds—up to \$3 million per project. However, both high schools and joint powers authorities can receive modernization funding—up to \$1.5 million per project.

Small high schools

In another effort to keep students in high school, reformers have supported a more personalized environment through smaller learning communities. Under Proposition ID, up to \$200 million can be used to support a state pilot project that encourages the creation of small high schools (500 students or fewer) or "schools within a school." Districts must provide a 40% local match.

"Green" construction

When school districts apply for funding under Proposition ID, they must consider designs and materials that promote environmentally sound construction such as making efficient use of energy and water, or relying on recycled and less toxic materials.

In addition, districts can apply for incentive grants to implement green construction. The proposition allocates \$100 million for this purpose. Districts have to provide matching funds: 50% (new) or 40% (modernization).

Costs of bonds are spread over time

Using general obligation (G.O.) bonds to finance public facilities is like a family taking out a mortgage to purchase a house. Long-term borrowing allows the state to spread the cost of facilities over time. Although state bonds do not require a tax increase, they do use revenues that could be spent for other purposes.

The cost of bonds depends on the interest rates in effect when they are sold and the time period over which they are repaid—typically 30 years for G.O. bonds. If Proposition ID bonds were sold at an average interest rate of 5%, the LAO estimates the cost would be about \$20.3 billion to pay off both principal (\$10.4 billion) and interest (\$9.9 billion). Thus, for every \$1 borrowed, the cost of paying it back is almost \$2. However, after adjusting for inflation, the LAO estimates the cost at considerably less: about \$1.30 for each \$1 borrowed.

As of July 1, 2006, the state had about \$45 billion of infrastructure-related General Fund bond debt, according to the LAO. The measures on November's ballot—propositions 1B through 1E and Proposition 84—add up to \$42.7 billion in bonds, almost doubling the current debt. If the proposed bond measures were all approved by voters and sold over a 10-year period, the cost would average roughly \$2 billion annually, the LAO says. For Proposition ID only, the average payment would be about \$680 million per year. (To put these numbers in context, total General Fund expenditures are expected to be about \$101 billion in 2006–07.)

Pros and cons of Proposition 1D

Proponents of the measure include Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, state Treasurer Phil Angelides, and a wide range of education and other groups, such as the California State PTA, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the League of Women Voters of California, and the California Chamber of Commerce. They say there is a documented and continuing need for funds to modernize facilities, relieve overcrowded conditions, and ensure that schools are earthquake safe.

Opponents of the measure—such as the Libertarian Party, state Senator Tom McClintock, and the California Taxpayer Protection Committee—say the state has too much debt, schools have received enough bond money, and the measure funds untested programs. They also say Proposition ID is unfair because all state taxpayers will have to pay off the bonds for several decades even though not all school districts will receive bond money. ☐

How can I find out more?

For more information, go to EdSource's election page:
www.edsource.org/pubivo_elect1106.cfm



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September 2006

VOTER GUIDE

Proposition 88: A Statewide Parcel Tax for Education Funding

This initiative would add a new section to the California Constitution to create an annual statewide tax of \$50 on most real property parcels. Any parcel owner who lives on the parcel and is eligible for the state's homeowner's property tax exemption and is either age 65 or older or severely or permanently disabled would be exempt. Funds generated would be earmarked for specific programs in the state's public schools: class size reduction, instructional materials, school safety, facility-related grants, and a data system.

While some local communities have passed parcel taxes, this measure would mark the first statewide property tax since at least 1910. As with all statewide initiatives, passage requires a simple majority vote, rather than the two-thirds required for local parcel taxes.

The expressed intent of Proposition 88 is to raise needed funds for a K–12 education system wherein students rank “among the bottom six states in reading and math”—a situation “caused, in part, by inadequate resources for public education.” However, some who agree with the need for more education resources see this initiative as small and piecemeal and say that it could inadvertently create the impression that school funding needs have been addressed. Others, including some taxpayer groups, see it as an incursion on the property tax protections created by Proposition 13, which voters passed in 1978.

Provisions of Proposition 88

Funds generated by the annual parcel tax would go into a new state special fund. The targeted annual total of \$470 million, which would increase education funding by less than 1%, could only be used for stated purposes in the following annual amounts:

- **K–12 class size reduction: \$175 million.** The state currently allocates \$1.8 billion annually for reducing K–3 class sizes to 20 or fewer students. Proposition 88 funds

could be used broadly—for example, to reduce K–3 classes even more or for reductions in other grades. The Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) estimates, as an example, that funds would be sufficient to reduce the average fourth grade class from 29 to 25 students statewide.

- **Textbooks and instructional materials: \$100 million.** Materials purchased must be “approved by the State Board of Education as consistent with the state curriculum frameworks and academically rigorous content standards.” The current state allocation for new instructional material purchases is \$400 million a year, or \$66 per K–12 student. The LAO estimates that this would be enough to pay for one additional core textbook for about a quarter of the state's K–12 students annually.
- **Safety and security of students, teachers, and staff: \$100 million.** These funds could be used for community policing, gang-risk intervention, after-school and intersession student support and development, and school community violence prevention. According to the LAO, the state currently provides \$548 million (or about \$90 per student) for after-school programs, \$97 million (about \$40 per grade 8–12 student) for general school safety grants, and \$17 million for competitive school safety grants.
- **“Academic Success” facility grants: \$85 million.** These grants, which could be used for any general purpose, would be distributed to school districts and charter schools at a flat rate of no more than \$500 per student per year for students in schools in the top half of the state's Academic Performance Index (API) rankings. Moreover, school districts are only eligible if they have not received funding from the proceeds of a state general obligation bond for construction or modernization. (About 100 of California's charter schools serving about 25% of all charter students and about 40 noncharter schools serving less than 1% of noncharter students would be eligible, according to LAO estimates.) Schools and districts receiving these grants would be prohibited from receiving facilities funding from future proceeds of state general obligation bonds unless the bond expressly makes them eligible. (This might appeal to districts unable to access state bond funds due to requirements such as providing a local match.)
- **An integrated, longitudinal student achievement and teacher data system: \$10 million.** The state has already invested funds for a student data system, currently in development, to evaluate program effectiveness. The LAO analysis notes, however, that virtually none of this funding goes to districts to collect and maintain the essential data. This initiative would provide such funding and require each district to participate.

The \$50 per parcel is a flat rate that would not change over time, regardless of inflation or changes in student enrollment. Funds generated would not be included in calculating the education funding levels guaranteed under Proposition 98 (expected to total about \$55 billion in 2006–07).

Because the actual amount of funding raised by the parcel tax could vary from the targeted amount, funds for each purpose would be adjusted annually on a proportional basis. The funds for class size reduction, textbooks/materials, and safety/security would be apportioned to school districts, county offices of education, and charter schools on a per-student basis under a new formula to be created by the Legislature. The formula would be needs-based, taking into account students' socioeconomic status, English proficiency, and special needs such as disabilities.

How can I find out more?

Pro campaign website: The Classroom Learning and Accountability Act www.votebetterforschools.org

Opposition website: No On Prop 88 <http://noprop88.com>

For the LAO's analysis of Proposition 88, go to www.lao.ca.gov/ballot_source/Propositions.aspx and click on page 3.

Go to the California Secretary of State's website, www.ss.ca.gov/elections/elections.htm, click on the dark blue Voter Information Guide button, and scroll down to Proposition 88 for a look at the ballot arguments.

Or go to EdSource's election page, www.edsource.org/pubinfo_elect1106.cfm, for more information on the Nov. 7 election and links to relevant resources.

Proposition 88 funds would be subject to an annual, independent audit. Funds could not be used for administrative purposes; violations would incur criminal penalties, loss of credentials, or fines for school district administrators. Moreover, the funds could only supplement (not replace) existing state, federal, or local program funding.

A small amount of funds raised (no more than two tenths of one percent) would go to counties to defray the cost of implementing the tax. In addition, a portion of the money would be transferred to the state General Fund to offset any decrease in state personal or corporate income tax revenue that results from deductions taken as a result of this parcel tax.

Several legal ambiguities exist. For one, the measure does not specify how and to whom funds would be appropriated for the data system. The authors say this is deliberately left for the Legislature to determine. The intent is for all the funding to go to school districts, initially targeting those most in need of database development support.

Other ambiguities raise concerns among some educators about the severity of the

penalties for misuse of funds. For example, it is unclear whether Proposition 88's class size reduction funds could be used to cover the shortfalls some districts face on costs associated with existing K-3 reductions—costs those districts currently pay out of their general purpose funds. This may require legal interpretation.

Opponents include anti-tax forces and some education groups

Opponents of the initiative include the League of Women Voters of California and several education groups, including the California State PTA, the Association of California School Administrators (ACSA), the California School Boards Association (CSBA), and the California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO). The Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association, some other taxpayer groups, and a number of local chambers of commerce are also opposed, as is Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. (His gubernatorial opponent, Phil Angelides, had not yet taken a position as of this writing.)

While agreeing that education is underfunded and acknowledging the initiative's good intent, the opposition groups that are committed to increasing funds for schools say that Proposition 88 is the wrong remedy. The amount raised would be minimal, they say, allowing only tinkering around the edges while creating a "lottery effect"—the illusion that schools' comprehensive needs have been met. Lottery funding, thought by some to be a significant source of school money, accounted for about 1.3% of total funding for schools in 2005-06. Proposition 88 would provide about half what the lottery does.

Related concerns include the possibility that passage of Proposition 88 may distract voters from Proposition 1D—a major school bond measure also on the November statewide ballot—or affect support for local parcel tax elections, about half of which fail.

Some are opposed to Proposition 88's regressive nature—all parcels are taxed the same, whether owned by businesses or individ-

uals, mansion owners or those of modest means. The taxpayer groups worry that the measure could lead to an erosion of Proposition 13's property tax protections by setting a precedent that could prompt other interests to seek similar taxes.

Other opponents dislike the measure's permanence, contrasting it to most local parcel tax levies, which specify a time span. Some are against statewide allocation of the funds by a needs-based student formula because it may mean that some local schools receive little or none of the funding.

Proponents emphasize dollars to classrooms

The sponsors of Proposition 88 are EdVoice and Taxpayers for Better Schools and Smaller Classes. Their ballot statement contrasts California's relatively low level of school funding with its high academic expectations. It states that this parcel tax would "raise needed funds for student achievement while protecting property owners against runaway taxes." The campaign website emphasizes that spending decisions would be made by local schools, "not bureaucrats in Sacramento."

Proponents also say that because money raised by the parcel tax would be kept separate from the education funding guaranteed by Proposition 98, this measure would ensure that the new dollars would be over and above that minimum funding requirement.

Acknowledging that the amount of funds raised would be relatively small, proponents—including State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell—say they recognize that Proposition 88 is not a panacea that will achieve all of their, or others', objectives for expanding education resources. Rather, the authors say the initiative just takes advantage of an opportunity to make a modest improvement in the amount of resources available for schools.

Proponents underscore the flexibility built into the measure, particularly the leeway it gives school districts for using the class size reduction funds to create smaller classes in any grade in any way they see fit. ■



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Mission Statement

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

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

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510-794-5783

President: Miriam Keller

Treasurer: Bunny Robinson

Editor: Vesta Wilson

Office Hours:

The LWVFNUC storage office address is:

4368 Enterprise St., off Grimmer, near Automall.

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ELECTRONIC CORNER**EDSOURCE ELECTION PAGE**

The November 7 election includes two propositions (1D and 88) with direct implications for education. On the ballot as well are candidates for a number of offices that have significant power over education in California.

EdSource's Election Page

English: http://www.edsource.org/pubinfo_elect1106.cfm;

Spanish: http://www.edsource.org/spa_pub_elect1106.cfm

provide the following:

VOTER GUIDES

Proposition 1D: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006

Proposition 88: A Statewide Parcel Tax for Education Funding

EdSource's two-page, impartial analyses of each of these measures outline key provisions and summarize arguments for and against. Proposition 1D is a bond measure that would provide \$10.416 billion for kindergarten through university public education facilities. The bulk of the funding is earmarked for K-12 schools. Proposition 88 would add a new section to the California Constitution to create an annual statewide tax of \$50 on most real property parcels. Funds generated would be earmarked for specific programs in the state's public schools.

Our Election Page also includes voter information and links to important, election-related resources.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:**30TH ANNUAL EDSOURCE FORUM**

*When & where: April 19 (Pomona) and April 20 (Palo Alto)

*Theme: "Money Talks: New Research and Candid Conversations about California School Finance"

—EdSource



QUOTE: Bad officials are elected by good citizens who do not vote. ~George Jean Nathan



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Tune in to see Sandi Pantages interview Syeda Yunus and Sam Neeman—Topic: Propositions 86,88,89, Pros and Cons.

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

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and Smart Voter
www.smartvoter.org



CALENDAR

| | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| Tues., Oct. 3 | Homeowner Election | 10:00 AM—2:00 PM | San Lorenzo |
| Fri., Oct. 13 | Education Committee | 9:30 AM | Miriam Keller's home |
| Sat., Sun., Oct. 14, 15 | Fashion Fundraiser | Sat, 9:30 AM—3:30 PM Sun., noon—3:00 PM | Holy Walter's home |
| Sat., Oct. 14 | Annual Garage Sale | 8:00 AM—2:00 PM | Holly Walter's front yard |
| Wed., Oct. 18 | Cable Taping | 2:00 PM | Comcast Studios |
| Wed., Oct. 25 | Action Committee | 9:30 AM | Marilyn Singer's home |