

Voter

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

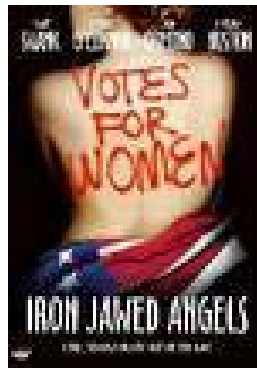


United Nations Day—October 24



THE LEAGUE GOES TO THE MOVIES ***IRON JAWED ANGELS***

***Saturday, October 18
2:00 PM—5:00 PM
St. James Episcopal Church
37051 Cabrillo Terrace
Fremont***



German filmmaker [Katja von Garnier](#) directs the HBO original movie [Iron Jawed Angels](#), inspired by a pivotal chapter in American history. [Hilary Swank](#) plays Alice Paul, an American feminist who risked her life to fight for women's citizenship and the right to vote. She founded the separatist National Woman's Party and wrote the first equal rights amendment to be presented before Congress. Together with social reformer Lucy Burns ([Frances O'Connor](#)), Paul struggled against conservative forces in order to pass the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States. One of their first actions was a parade on President Woodrow Wilson's ([Bob Gunton](#)) inauguration day. The suffragettes also encountered opposition from the old guard of the National American Women's Suffrage Association, Carrie Chapman Catt ([Anjelica Huston](#)). The activists get arrested and go on a well-publicized hunger strike, where their refusal to eat earns them the title of "the iron-jawed angels." [Iron Jawed Angels](#) was screened at the Sundance Film Festival in 2004 before its television premiere on HBO. - **Andrea LeVasseur, All Movie Guide**

President's Message for the September 2008 Voter

Dear Fellow Leaguers:

We started off our action packed year with several candidate forums taped on our Voting Matters program and two recent ones held at the City of Fremont's Council Chambers. We continue our valuable voter service activities with more upcoming candidate /public forums, registration drives and pros/cons. We are working in collaboration with the City of Fremont and Association of American University Women and the Parent Teachers Association to hold some of these forums. We appreciate being able to come together as a community to provide this much needed service for the Public.

Our Speakers' Bureau, where we present pros/cons of ballot measures, information about the League or other areas of civic interest, kicked off with a commemoration of Constitution Day at DeVry University on September 17, 2008. We were invited to speak by Haideh Nikpour, Director of Library Services at DeVry University. We had an opportunity to discuss with attendees at the event, history of the trials and tribulations suffered by the suffragists in their quest to the right to vote. This information was drawn from the movie Iron Jawed Angels which we strongly recommend. Our League is planning a forum to air this inspiring film in October 2008; this film is a reminder of how hard fought and dear is our right to vote. We hope you will all attend!

Please visit our website at www.lwvfnuc.org for updated information regarding dates, time and place for upcoming events. Also, if you have not already done so, visit www.Smartvoter.org learn more about the November 4th elections, candidates, ballot measures and all kinds of useful information. We will also be distributing the Pros/Cons and Easy Voter Guides. Call us if you or anyone you know needs a copy. And remember – Exercise your right to Vote!! The adage: "Use it or Lose it" applies not just to our brain cells and our muscles but also to this very valuable right.

With best regards,
—Syeda R Yunus, President

At the September 18, 2008 Board Meeting, the Board:

- Approved the minutes of the May 2008 and August 2008 Board meetings.
- Heard the Treasurer's report, assessed our budget to actual spending and reviewed our cash position. Discussed how best to utilize our cash reserves and reviewed our reimbursement policy.
- Increased our budget for the Pros and Cons by \$300 and approved a budget of \$150 for the office move.
- Listened to suggestions and offered feedback and arrived at consensus on improvements on the website and fund development program.
- Planned for upcoming forum on September 30th and for another exciting program in October.
- Agreed to link voter information from our site and Smartvoter.org with TriCity Voice.
- Reviewed voter service activities such as our successful candidate forums and registration drives.
- Heard reports from the Action and Education committees.
- Reviewed invitation from the Ohlone Board of Trustees for a reception to welcome the new President/Superintendent, Dr. Gari Browning. Some of our members agreed to attend.
- Read thank you letter from Congressman Stark which expressed appreciation for our candidate forums and voter service activities.
- 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.

Action and Voter Service Report- September 2008

The Voter Information book has been proofed and went to the printer on Monday, September 22nd right on schedule. John Smith has been instrumental in producing the book.

Action committee wrote a pro/com for Fremont's Measure MM (hotel tax) and it is in the Voter Information book.

Six of the eleven forums have been completed. One was on September 22 at Fremont Council Chambers at 7 PM for Fremont Mayor and Council. It ran live on Channel 27. September 25th was Ohlone and ACWD at Ohlone College. The last forum will be October 1 at NHUSD. Washington Hospital will be running the hospital forum on their channel, and the others will be on Comcast and the Mayor and Council will run on the COF channel. This should give good coverage. We do not have a schedule to publicize.

Voting Matters taped Inclusionary Ordinances this month and will do Fremont's Green Task force next month.

—Marilyn Singer

YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS		OFF BOARD DIRECTORS	
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Pros and Cons Fremont Measure MM Transient Occupancy Tax

The Question

Shall the Fremont Municipal Code be amended to increase the Transient Occupancy Tax (commonly called the "hotel tax"), which is charged only to persons who occupy hotel or motel rooms in the City for 30 days or less, from the current 8% to 10%, in order to help maintain basic City services such as public safety, and street and park maintenance?

The Situation

External forces largely determine the City of Fremont's revenues. State of California revenue policies and regional, national and international economic forces impact us. Both State policies and economic challenges have led to unpredictability in City revenue. Revenue growth has not kept up with community growth and has not been sufficient to provide fundamental City services at the levels the community desires. Public safety and park and street maintenance services will consume more than 85% of the City's General Fund revenues in FY 2008-09 and none will be funded at optimal levels. Fremont has very few locally controlled revenue sources such as the TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax), which is funded primarily by non-residents. The TOT is expected to generate \$3.2 million (or 2.5%) of the City's \$128.5 million FY 2007-08 General Fund revenues. The City Council adopted a balanced budget on June 10, 2008 for FY 2008-2009. However, costs will once again exceed income. For the first time the City is expected to spend its entire fund balance and use \$4.1 million of General Fund reserves (the City's savings).

The Proposal

Measure MM proposes that the City of Fremont increase the TOT from 8% to 10%. A simple majority (50% + 1) is required to pass a general fund tax measure. All of the TOT revenues collected by the City are used and shall continue to be used for City General Fund purposes.

Fiscal Effect

The City Council's budget priority allocates more than 85% of the City's general

funds towards public safety and street and park maintenance. Additional revenue for these services is vital for maintaining the high quality of life Fremont residents expect and deserve. An increase of 2%, which is about \$2 more a night for a room that costs \$100, will help raise about \$800,000 for the City's general fund.

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A **YES** vote means that the Transit Occupancy Tax will increase to 10%.

A **NO** vote means that the Transit Occupancy Tax will remain at 8%.

Supporters Say

A "Yes" vote on Measure MM will not raise taxes on Fremont residents or local businesses. Only visitors staying in hotels and motels in Fremont will pay this tax.

A "Yes" vote will generate additional funds for local services.

The TOT is levied on visitors, who use City roads, enjoy our amenities and are protected by our police and fire services.

Fremont has one of the lowest TOT rates in the Bay Area. Increasing our rate to 10% puts us at the same level as many neighboring cities. Therefore, we will remain competitive.

It is important for Fremont to have a local revenue source that cannot be taken away by other levels of government.

The entire City Council placed Measure MM on the ballot and it is supported by the local motel and hotel industries.

More than 85% of the City's general funds are used for public safety and to maintain over 486 miles of streets and 850 acres of parks.

Please join the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, the League of Women Voters, and representatives of the Fremont hotel industry in voting "Yes" on Measure MM.

Opponents Say

In 2006, we voted NO for local utility taxes. The City stated they needed the tax. After it was defeated they found approximately \$10,000,000 somewhere. Measure MM is a referendum on City leadership. Previous tax measures failed because voters un-

derstood there were no guarantees how the money would be spent.

Tax increases should have a 2/3 majority to pass.

Saying that Fremont residents will not pay this tax does not keep it from being a tax increase. One way or another all taxes are paid by all citizens.

Since when is a tax "competitive"? All taxes are regressive.

This tax Increase will go to the general fund where it will subsidize excessive union contracts similar to those that bankrupted the City of Vallejo.

Increasing taxes causes employers to move out of California.

Please join Waste Watchers in voting NO on Measure MM.

For More Information

Supporters: www.FremontFirst.com

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

Disclaimer: (Information on this measure is from the opponents and proponents of Measure MM).

LWVFNUC SUPPORTS BOTH FREMONT MEASURE MM AND UNION CITY MEASURE UU

UNION CITY MEASURE UU

Public Safety Services Tax

The latest measure, which will appear on the November 4 ballot is being proposed as an extension and enhancement of the city's existing Measure K, which generates \$2.7 million annually. Measure K was approved by voters in 2004 and is set to expire in April 2009.

Measure UU proposes to extend the tax for only eight years while also increasing the tax rate to generate an additional half -million dollars annually. The revenue would fund public-safety services (police & firefighters), including youth gang prevention and intervention programs. Under the proposed measure, most owners of single family residences would pay about \$20 more annually than what they are paying now, or a total of \$125 a year. LWVFNUC supports Measure UU.



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: 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 for the full report.**



Anti-Idling Day of Action-- Bay Area Monitor

By Alec MacDonald,

Truck drivers who let their engines idle are not only wasting gasoline and polluting the air, but in California, they're breaking the law as well.

This was the message on June 24, when the Ditching Dirty Diesel Collaborative — a coalition of environmental, public health, neighborhood, and union organizations — held an "Anti-Idling Day of Action." Partner organizations sent members out to truck hubs in San Francisco, Oakland, San Leandro, and Richmond to get the word out to drivers, many of whom are still unaware of the state's regulations.

Highway-licensed, diesel-fueled commercial vehicles with gross vehicle weight ratings greater than 10,000 pounds are not permitted to idle for more than five minutes. It doesn't matter where vehicles are originally registered; once they cross into California, they're bound by this law (except in certain situations, such as when experiencing traffic conditions out of the driver's control, when queuing up in the normal course of performing work, or when undergoing testing, servicing, and repair). The California Air Resources Board passed the law in 2005, and tightened regulations this past January on trucks with sleeper berths units (which were previously allowed to let their engines run when drivers rested, but now must utilize an alternative power source for heating, cooling, and other cab comfort needs).

These requirements are for everyone's benefit — perhaps the drivers most of all. Among other factors cited in the Collaborative's literature, idling causes twice the wear on internal engine parts compared to driving at regular speeds, reducing the life of the engine. This is not to mention the health problems created by diesel exhaust, a toxic air contaminant which drivers are of course exposed to a great deal already.

"I think the activities on the day of action went really well," said Jessica

Henn, a program associate with Regional Asthma Management and Prevention, a partner organization of the Collaborative. Henn reported that the effort made contact with approximately 250 drivers and distribution center staff.

"Overall, people were receptive to our message," she said. "We had a good response from the drivers."

Regional Asthma Management and Prevention:
www.rampasthma.org

California Air Resources Board's Heavy-Duty Vehicle Idling Emission Reduction Program:
www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/truck-idling/truck-idling.htm

Previous Bay Area Monitor Vehicle Idling Coverage:
www.bayareamonitor.org/aug05/idle.html

LWVC

Visit the Natural Resources Web Pages for the Latest News

We are regularly updating our Web pages, so please visit our site for new information. We'll be adding information about the below topics this week, so please check back for new links being added below:

- Global Warming
- Transit News from San Diego and Elsewhere
- Water Quality: Emerging Contaminants
- The Ahwahnee Water Principles
- Sandless Shorelines
- Poop—Power for Vehicles That Run on Fuel-Cell Systems

Charollette Fox, *Natural Resources Director*

natural_resources@lwvc.org



CAMPAIGN FINANCE POSITIONS OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA

POSITION IN BRIEF: *Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions which will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.*

POSITIONS

1. Public reporting of campaign contributions and expenditures by all candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions in statewide elections.
2. Effective monitoring and enforcement.
3. Measures which will broaden the base of campaign financing, including tax credits/deductions for those who contribute to political parties, candidates, and ballot measure campaigns and some public financing to candidates for state office through an "income tax check-off" system and direct government appropriations. Public funding measures should include realistic limits on contributions and expenditures.
4. Realistic limits on contributions by individuals and groups to candidates and ballot measure campaigns.
5. Realistic limits on the amount each candidate and ballot measure committee can spend.
6. A requirement that each candidate have one central committee responsible for coordinating, controlling, and reporting all contributions and expenditures.
7. Government provision of services for the voter, such as voter registration and distribution of information on candidates and issues.
8. Measures which will limit or shorten the length of campaigns.

It's easy to JOIN the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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

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

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

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

Individual Membership - \$60 Household - \$90

Donate to LWVFNUC \$ _____ Donate to Ed. Fund \$ _____ Total enclosed\$ _____

Name(s) _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail _____ New Member _____ Renewal _____ Transfer from _____



Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to L.W.V. Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact: 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
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The LWVFNUC office address is:
3375 Country Drive
Fremont, CA
Materials are available from 11-2,
Monday through Friday.

WHO KNOWS?

Which country was first to grant full voting rights to women? It was New Zealand in 1893.

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 FIRST PREMISE FOR THE ANTI'S ARGUMENT

The antis based their assumption on the difference between men and women. When they discussed physical differences, the biological differences were not stressed because they did not consider this appropriate for public discussion. Instead they emphasized the "frailty" of women claiming that this is what made her "unsuited" for the vote. Her physical weakness was considered potentially dangerous (just getting to the poll was fatiguing). "Once a woman arrived she would have to mingle, among the crowds of men who gather around the polls...and to press her way through them to the ballot box. Assuming she reached the polling place, she might get caught in a brawl and given women's natural fragility, she would be the one to get hurt.

THEIR ARGUMENTS WHICH WERE LINKED TO THE ONES ABOVE

Beyond these reasons existed the belief that allowing women to vote would jeopardize the nation's security and lead ultimately to war. "Allowing women to vote would lead to foreign aggression and war."

(Continued next month)



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF FREMONT,
NEWARK AND UNION CITY**
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WATCH VOTING MATTERS

Tune in to watch Ivy Wu interview high school students Matthew Yuen and Bob Chen. Topic: 'Quest'

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

Newark, Channel 6, every Thursday at 7 PM

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

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

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

CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 1	Candidate Forums	7:00 PM, 8:00 PM	New Haven Administration Offices
Fri., Oct. 10	Education Committee	9:30 AM	Miriam Keller's home
Wed., Oct. 15	Cable Taping	2:00 PM	Comcast Studios
Thurs., Oct. 16	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15 PM	Cultural Arts Center
Sat., Oct 18	Public Meeting—"Iron Jawed Angels"	2:00 PM	St James Episcopal Church
Thurs., Oct. 23	Action Committee Brown bag lunch	12:30 PM	Kay Emanuele's home