

Voter

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

Annual Reports



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year has been full of adventures for our League. The greatest one was the monitoring of the Sikh election in January. It was full of surprises and a huge contribution to our community - and our treasury. We continue to learn more about their culture as we monitor their bylaws election amendments. We also reached out to the Afghan community by sponsoring a meeting that supported young Afghan writers. We contributed to the Irvington High School "We the People" team fund to travel to Washington, D.C. AS state champions they represented the best in young people. Their fourth place finish at the national competition was wonderful!

Elections last Fall found us busy as ever. Support for the proposed utility tax in Fremont was not enough for it to pass. Candidate forums and speaker engagements kept the Voter Service volunteers busy. Our Voter and web site won a commendation at the LWVC convention for General Excellence! The Action Committee continued to advocate for issues of concern. They also scheduled many interviews of locally elected officials. We are now keeping a file of those interview summaries for future reference.

This next year under Miriam Keller's leadership will be filled with new adventures. When you renew, sign up for one of these adventure filled areas of Action, Voter Service, Speaker's Bureau, Cable program crew, Education Committee, new community hospital study committee, or the state update on the environment committee.—Alex Starr

ADMINISTRATIVE VICE PRESIDENT

At the beginning of the year the Development Committee met to consider the fundraising goals and activities. Little did we realize how successful our ef-

orts would be. As usual we added to the coffers with money earned from Albertson's and Safeway's escarp program, the fall rummage sale, a fall and spring Weekenders fashion fundraiser (thanks to Holly Bell Walter), our corporate sponsors Dale Hardware, Fremont Bank and Office Max, League member donations, and election poll worker and election night helpers donations.

In additions we earned money from our participation in the LWVC Democracy Dinner (thanks Ann Crosbie), helping Fremont Flowers prepare roses for Valentine's Day, and the very successful grand finale assisting in the Sikh election.

—Kay Emanuele

HISTORIAN'S REPORT

In order to maintain a record of the 2004-2005 League year, a file has been maintained for each of:

FNUC roster
Board agendas
Board minutes
Special Projects
News clippings
Study Committee Reports
Voter Information

All members are requested to submit for the archives any and all information regarding LWVFNUC activities. Future League members will thank you for your foresight.

—Jean Holmes, Historian

PROGRAM VP REPORT SUMMARY OF MEETINGS 2004-5

September 2004 Mike Wallace, speaker: Fremont's Utility Users Tax, Washington Hospital Bond and Propositions 59 and 72. Meeting held at Fremont Bank in Niles

October 2004 Candidate Forums

November 2004 Two consensus meetings to update LWVC position on education. Meetings held at St. James Episcopal Church

December 2004 Holiday party and Program Planning meeting, Pauline Weaver's home.

January 2005 Environmental Sustainability Justine Burt, Environmental Project Manager, Science Applications International Corporation at Golden Peacock Banquet Restaurant 3681 Peralta Blvd. Fremont. Co-sponsored with Tri-City Ecology.



February, 2005 John Dutra, former 20th Assembly District Member, "The California Budget" and other topics, Niles Congregational Church 255 H St, Niles District, Fremont

March 2005 "Our Community-Who Belongs?" A public forum to discuss community membership for vulnerable minorities. Speaker: attorney general Bill Lockyear. Valhalla Hall, Irvington High School. Co-sponsored with a large group of Fremont organizations including the Fremont Human Relations Commission.

Also, in March, cosponsored with: -sponsored with The Afghan Journal and Pacific News Service, Authors Tamim Ansary (*West of Kabul, East of New York*) and Khaled Hosseini (*Kite Runner*) at New Haven USD board room.

April 2005 The Current State of Health Care. Speaker Janet Van Deusen, Manager of the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program of Alameda County. Held at the Congregational Church 38255 Blacow, Fremont

May 2005 Salt Pond Restoration Tour, Marsh Road exit East Shore Highway Menlo Park

June 2005 Annual Meeting Albert Torrico, Representative, 20th Assembly District, North China Restaurant, Fremont

—Ken Ballard and Ursel Bloxsom, Program

ACTION COMMITTEE

1. Hill Area and Environmental Issues. When Measure T passed, we thought that the hill area issues were over but we have been busy attending planning commission and council meetings to remind them that Measure T is law now. City staff spent time defining the toe of the hill. Residents of Avalon and Ponderosa were very unhappy with the line and persuaded the Planning Commission and City Council to hire an outside consultant to check staff's assumptions and the drawing of the line. The Council has not finished the implementation guidelines for Measure T. Some people want to build homes on property that can only be reached by roads that are over 30% grade. One builder built a house with many aspects that were out of compliance with Measure T. We testified that he shouldn't be allowed to do this as it might set a precedent.

2. We interviewed all of the Washington Hospital Board members. We complained that they were all eating together before the Board meeting in a place and that others were not welcome. In Testimony we explained that this violated the Brown Act. They stopped this practice and now have a buffet table in the Board room; they do not eat alone and visitors are invited to join in.

We are looking into the Hospital Development Board. We now know who the members of the Board are, but they won't talk to us.

We agitated for over a year that their board meetings should be on cable TV. At first they would tape the meetings and put the tape in their library in Washington West. We testified that this wasn't public enough. The programs are now broadcast on

Fremont's Government Channel 27 on the 4th Monday of the month.

We took a neutral position on their bond issue.

They eventually appointed an oversight committee for the bond but did not advertise or publicly ask for applications for the committee. All of the appointees were active in supporting the bond.

The Hospital has a very good web site with the exception of information about the board, board meetings and agendas.

We followed all of the rezonings called for in the new Fremont Housing Element. They are rezoning property that is vacant or underutilized, is within a half mile of a BART station, built or proposed, and rezoning some commercial and industrial property to high density residential or mixed use. We attended public meetings for the Maple Street Housing and the Irvington Family Apartments (formerly the Patio World property). When constructed these two developments will have 232 affordable units. The inclusionary ordinance has produced more affordable apartments and town houses. We took part in housing advocates meetings where an initiative is being prepared for the 2006 ballot to establish a state housing trust fund.

4. Ohlone College Issues. New members on their Board and a new president have worked wonders with how the Board conducts the public's business. At a recent meeting several of the Board members asked questions of the consultants so that the public could better understand their business.

5. Election Issues: The Action Committee wrote letters in support of Prop.

59 (Brown Act and other open meeting laws into the constitution) and Prop. 72 (the referendum on SB2 Health Care) and opposing Prop. 69 (DNA samples). We wrote pro/con papers for the utility tax and the hospital bond. We distributed the above and an LWVBA pro/con on the BART bond.

We developed backup questions for the candidate forums.

We're following the Measure A (½% sales tax) through the Alameda County Council of Leagues. The League may have two representatives on the Oversight Committee, one from North County and one from South County. Appointments haven't been made yet.

6. We interviewed almost all of the newly elected Board and Council members in the Tri-Cities and interviewed Alberto Torrico with the questions generated by the State League. We interviewed the Planning Directors of Fremont and Union City for a study of land use issues near BART stations being conducted by LWVBA.

7. We also attended meetings to monitor the Patterson Property, Route 84 and BART to Warm Springs.

8. We monitored election news on Channel 3 (NBC) in conjunction with Stanford's "Grade the News".

9. We served as the program development committee for the cable program "Voting Matters." See separate report.

—Miriam Keller

**QUOTE:**

That amid our highest civilization men faint and die with want is not due to the niggardliness of nature, but to the injustice of man. —Henry George *Progress and Poverty*

VOTER SE SERVICE

1. Reminded members to distribute voter affidavits to 73 sites.
2. Arranged voter registration at 23 locations.
3. Bookmarks with Smart Voter information were distributed to libraries, health fairs and new registrants.
4. Local candidates (32) were sent letters asking them to participate in Smart Voter.
5. Candidate forums were arranged on six nights, involving 20 League members who served as time keepers, question sorters, moderators and pages.
6. Made phone calls or sent e-mail messages to confirm candidate presence at forums.
7. Letters of thanks were sent to candidates who participated in forums.
8. Distributed 5000 Pros and Cons and 700 Easy Voter Guides.
9. Voter information was given to the Argus and the Tri-City Voice.
10. Handled 62 phone calls.
11. Promoted use of SCRIP and the recycling of inkjet cartridges and old cell phones.
12. —Letha Saldana, Kay Emanuele, Ellen Culver

CABLE COMMITTEE

In 1995 the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City started the production of a monthly cable program entitled "Voting Matters". The purpose of "Voting Matters" is to provide information of interest to the local community and to help citizens stay informed about local issues. The programs include election issues and "Know Your Town" type issues.

Our producer oversees the production of each monthly program, including handling of the cameras, audio equipment and the director's board at the studio as well as development of the program content. The cable program committee of "Voting Matters" has been folded into the Action Committee, which chooses topics, develops scripts, and finds knowledgeable guests and moderators.

Our topics in the last 12 months included Fremont Creek Cleanups, the new Pacific

Commons, Grade the News, Kidango Children's Centers. 2 local election measures (the Fremont Utility Users Tax and the Washington Hospital Bond), An Exit Interview with the Mayor (Gus Morrison), the Alameda County Probation Department, Fremont Character Education Programs in the Elementary Schools, Fremont Character Education Programs in the Secondary Schools, Route 84, and interviews with Fremont City Manager Fred Diaz and Union City's City Manager Larry Cheeves.

The Cable Committee offers a great opportunity for skills development and always has room for new members. Please call if you would like to participate.

—Emily Sawyer Producer, "Voting Matters"

ACTION COMMITTEE HAS A NEW LOOK

Your Action Committee does just what our name says we take ACTION! We study issues and keep our eyes on the functions of government at many levels. Your eyes and ears are not just the members of the Committee, but also our Observers who alert us when they think we need to pay attention to the workings of the many councils, boards and commissions that do the public's business. Our job is a big one, and we are a hard-working group.

This year, to better keep on top of issues, we have restructured our committee, and we are now what are called "League Specialists". Each specialist takes responsibility for an aspect of the committee's work and shares the information with the whole committee. The specialist reads League materials, articles in the media and attends public meetings so he/she works toward expertise. The following list lets you know who our specialists are:

Housing: Miriam Keller
Transportation: Alex Starr
Redistricting: Kay Emanuele
Health Care: Syeda Yunus
State Interviews: Muriel Nolan
Environment: Susan Gearhart
Brown Act: Judy Zlatnik
State and Local Finance: Jean Holmes
Keeping Organized: Marilyn Singer
Writing background papers and testimony: Sam Neeman.

We all share the jobs of recruiting Observers and taking action when they alert us, writing the monthly cable program, *Voting Matters*, recruiting and overseeing the cable crew, writing Voter articles, collaboratively

writing and presenting testimony at various public meetings and attending and monitoring public meetings and study sessions.

We talk a lot and tend to get excited about League business. We would love to have you join us on the fourth Wednesdays at 9:30 AM or be on an ad hoc committee to study the Patterson Ranch issue. We will definitely help you escape from boredom. Call Marilyn at 657-1969 if you can join us. Your Action Committee, Miriam Keller, Alex Starr, Jean Holmes, Kay Emanuele, Muriel Nolan, Susan Gearhart, Judy Zlatnik, Ursel Bloxson, Sam Neeman, and Marilyn Singer.

We are watching!



OBSERVERS

Welcome to our new Observers. Joanne Landers: Ohlone College

Syeda Yunus: Fremont Human Relations Commission

Betty Foster: UC City Council

Julice Winter: East Bay Regional Park district

Susan Gearhart: Washington Hospital

Vesta Wilson: Fremont City Council

(Via TV)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee is meeting again after a summer rest. There are many interesting and important issues to study:

The coming November Propositions dealing with education, school finance, and much, much more.

We will be meeting at Mission Coffee on Washington Blvd at 9 AM on the second Friday of the month. We invite any interested member to join us for coffee and breakfast and stimulating conversation.

—Vesta Wilson



At the 2005 Convention there were 16 awards related to local League VOTERs. The recipients are listed by category below. An asterisk means that past VOTERs are available on the local League's Web site for your inspection. Two asterisks mean that only the current VOTER is on line, sometimes in a format that is not the same as the printed VOTER. You can find a handy list of links to all local League Web sites at: <http://www.lwvc.org/lwvc/aboutlwvc/dirllweb.html>

Awards for layout and design: *Glendale/Burbank; *Beach Cities; Ventura County; Piedmont.

Awards for General Excellence: *Los Angeles; Palo Alto; *Fremont, Newark, and Union City.

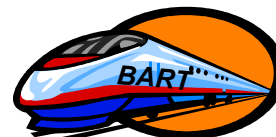
Awards for Outstanding Article: Marin County (A Local Desalinization Project); **Oakland ("What Happens When the Polls Close?"); *San Diego (Abused, Neglected, and Abandoned Children); **Pasadena Area (Water Privatization)

Awards for Outstanding President's Messages: *Chris Carson (Glendale/Burbank); **Sharon Mullenix (Pasadena Area); *Mona Windsor (Humboldt County)

Commendations on Outstanding Front Pages: Western Nevada County; *Fremont, Newark and Union City (September 2004, but browse the other issues).

FREE RIDES ON SPARE THE AIR DAYS

In 2004, the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) wrapped several cars in the Spare the Air logo to advertise free morning commutes on Spare the Air days. This year there will be wrapped buses from 8 transit districts around the region carrying the Spare the Air message, and many more transit agencies will be participating in free morning rides throughout the region. Following the successful program run by BART and the Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (WHEELS) in 2004, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission are expanding the Spare the Air/ Free Morning Transit Commute Program. Free morning commute rides will be available on all participating transit district vehicles from 4-9 am, for up to 5 Spare the Air days between June 1 and October 14 (except holidays). The program is part of the Air District's annual Spare the Air campaign and MTC's Clean Air in Motion program. It will be funded from the federal Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, and Transportation Fund for Clean Air funds. It is estimated that if all five days are used, the program will cost approximately \$4 million. Nineteen transit operators **plan** to participate in the Spare the Air/free morning commute promotion. —Bay Area Monitor



Democracy Dinner Results

We did it! We made money and had a terrific event. Virginia Holtz, co-chair and the committee members Ann Crosbie, Laurie Gaumer, Marilyn Howard, Judy Orttung, Sally Probst, Sandy Remmers, Lucile Spurlock, and Peter Szego deserve our gratitude. The income will be in excess of \$38,000. LWVCEF will receive over \$16,000—10% of the gross income plus 50% of the net income. The six Leagues that had members on the committee will split the remaining 50%, receiving over \$2,700 for their education fund activities.

March 2005

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Quality, Access, Low Cost: Can California's Community Colleges Do It All?

California's community colleges are expected to provide a broad range of affordable educational opportunities to everyone who wants access: students needing basic skills, career or technical training, two years of coursework to transfer to a university, or enrichment courses. The colleges not only serve their students, but they also play an important role in reducing enrollment pressures on the state's universities and providing the business community with the skilled workers it needs.

The CCC system has attempted—with mixed results—to provide quality programs to serve its far-reaching and continually growing mission. In 2003 the system faced both dramatic growth in the state's young adult population and a state budget that reduced expected funding. In response, community colleges cut course offerings and student services. The situation shed a harsh light on the conflicts inherent in raising expectations for the state's community colleges with only limited regard for the costs or tradeoffs involved.

Reductions in funding also reduce access

For the CCC system, actual enrollment increases do not necessarily result in more funds. Instead, the state uses enrollment demand projections to set a limit on how much additional community college enrollment it will support. If actual enrollment growth exceeds the limit—throughout the system or at a specific campus—the state does not provide additional funding.

Thus, when community college funding is reduced, campuses typically respond by cutting student services and/or academic courses. Between spring 2002 and spring 2003, course offerings systemwide were cut by 4.7%, according to state data. Although these reductions affected some English and math courses required by transfer students, the cuts were disproportionately from vocational and non-transferable course sections. At some campuses that meant students were placed on waiting lists and eventually turned away.

Certain students are affected by these cutbacks more than others, according to the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy. First-generation college students, older students, and others less familiar with college systems frequently lose out to those who are more system savvy.

Adequate funding to accommodate an increasing number of students is, for many, just one facet of a larger financial crisis for the CCC system. The California Postsecondary Commission (CPEC) puts the cost per full-time equivalent student (FTES) in the 2003–04 academic year at \$4,367. This level of funding places California 40th among the 50 states in its per-student funding for community

colleges, according to the League of Women Voters of California. The League and others say that CCC funding is approximately \$3,000 per FTES below the national average. The CCC Chancellor's Office estimates that an adequate level of funding for community colleges might be about \$9,200 per FTES.

Growing demand will necessitate change

CPEC projections of enrollment demand include population growth plus the percent of the adult population who will attend, i.e. participation rates. Assuming moderate growth in participation rates, no increase in the amount per FTES, and no adjustment for inflation, the community colleges will need \$1.5 billion more in funds for instruction-related expenses alone by 2013, according to CPEC.

With California's current state budget crisis, the K–12 and CCC systems could easily become competitors for scarce resources. Both receive their funding under the provisions of Proposition 98, a minimum guarantee that has instead served as a maximum limit on state funding for K–14 education. Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2005–06 budget proposes to suspend Proposition 98 but still provide a \$359 million increase for community colleges, enough to support a 3.93% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) and enrollment growth of 3%. It also assumes no increase in student fees. The proposal recommends a similar increase covering COLA and growth for K–12. Under this scenario, neither system receives the funding augmentation that Proposition 98 would have automatically provided, an increase many believe both systems need.

With no new resources apparently available, many are looking at ways to make the current state funding for community colleges stretch further, particularly over the long term. Two suggestions—increasing fees and changing registration policies to limit access and thus enrollment demand—could have consequences for certain student populations and thus present political challenges. A third suggestion—reviewing the way funds are allocated—may help shift funds to regions where demand is the strongest; but, if implemented, lower-demand districts could suffer.

Fee increases: Fees only account for 5% of the CCC system's budget. A 44% increase in 2004–05 raised the annual full-time tuition to attend community college in California to just \$780. This compares to a national average of \$2,155 in 2003–04.

Prioritizing students: Technically, the community colleges cannot turn away a student who wishes to enroll, but they can and do set policies that favor one group over another. Which students should be the highest priority? And who should decide that for individual campuses and for the system as a whole?

Finding efficiencies: The CCC system could stretch funds by distributing resources more effectively. Currently the system uses a rather complex allocation formula called program-based funding (PBF), established in 1988, to decide how much funding each community college district receives.

Improving student performance benefits the system

In 2004 the Legislature passed both Senate bills 1415 and 1785 to improve the efficiency with which students can transfer from community colleges to CSU campuses. SB 1415 requires that, by June 1, 2006, the CCC and CSU systems as a whole adopt a common course numbering system for the 20 majors in highest demand, making it clear which courses any CSU will accept. (The common numbering system is optional for the UC and independent postsecondary institutions.)

Reducing the number of students who need remedial help and increasing the pass rate in remedial courses would also save money and alleviate crowding. In fall 2003 more than 285,000 students on CCC campuses, or about 19%, enrolled in at least one remedial course.

This is an issue that community colleges and K-12 schools need to work on together. Research shows that many high school students wrongly assume that community colleges have no curricular requirements. They are often unaware that they will have to take placement tests before enrolling in community college classes. They do not realize that, in California, the minimum skills and knowledge required to graduate from many high schools are not enough to qualify a student to take community college classes, even career/technical courses.

Improving student success in transfer and remediation programs could also help address the capacity and funding problems. Better articulation and instructional improvements could remove barriers and improve transfer rates.

Researchers have found that this lack of preparation at the high school level also affects students' ability to complete college. Students who take extensive remedial coursework at the college level are less

likely to attain their educational goal, whether that is a two-year certificate or a four-year degree.

According to a Chancellor's Office 2002 report, students pass approximately 59% of basic-skills courses, a rate that has remained fairly consistent from 1997 to 2001. This compares to completion rates of 75% or more for transfer and career/technical courses. Research is currently examining how factors such as student readiness, class size, staff qualifications, and instructional quality may affect student success rates in basic-skills courses. Results could help the CCC system improve remedial course completion rates.

In many cases, the state has already paid for these students to gain basic skills while they were in high school. Paying again for them to gain the same skills at the community colleges is expensive.

The state needs to address community college issues

Over the past 30 years, community college students have accounted for 73% of the increase in California higher education enrollment, according to the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC), and the rate of adults attending community colleges is higher in California than in any other state. Regional variations in population growth and program needs further complicate the situation.

Absent well-considered state policy decisions, individual community college districts will make the choices necessary to keep operating. With little ability to increase their own revenues, the campuses will likely find ways to cut costs, limit enrollments, or both. These ad hoc decisions, constrained by many factors outside of the control of the campuses, may have unintended consequences. They will certainly reflect local needs, priorities, and politics that may not advance the greater good of the state as a whole.

More than one analysis indicates that the amount of funding required to provide a quality education to students is significantly higher than what California currently provides. But the K-12 system, which competes for the same dollars, makes a similar case. It is unclear whether leaders in these two systems can avoid a win/lose confrontation, instead presenting a united front to advocate for adequate funding for the K-14 system as a whole.

For the community colleges to provide quality programs and fulfill their core mission, the state may have to either increase funds or establish priorities to determine which students will be served. It may also need to craft some special regional approaches for those campuses that are seeing the most change. Addressing some of the cumbersome areas of the governance and funding systems—and examining the system's accountability mechanisms—could also make a difference. ■■

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How can I find out more?

For more information on community colleges, see the full report: *Quality. Access. Low Cost. Can Community Colleges Do It All?* The report is available for purchase online at the EdSource website: www.edsource.org (Click on Publications in the yellow bar.) Or call the office at 650/857-9604.

Also at www.edsource.org find an extensive bibliography that contains links to research reports, commentaries, and other information about community colleges.

In addition, EdSource is publishing two student/parent guides on community colleges: *A Guide to California's Community Colleges* and *Community College: A first step to a bachelor's degree*. These two-page guides will be available in both English and Spanish to download for free from the EdSource website in April 2005.



EdSource is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in California in 1977. Independent and impartial, EdSource strives to advance the common good by developing and widely distributing trustworthy, useful information that clarifies complex K-12 education issues and promotes thoughtful decisions about California's public school system.

EdSource thanks the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation for its investment in our work.

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BALLOT MEASURES, NOVEMBER, 2005**SUMMARY**

On June 13, 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger called a special election to be held on November 8, 2005. Since that announcement, eight initiatives have qualified to be placed on the special election ballot. The deadline for initiatives to qualify for the November 8th ballot was June 30, 2005. There is a possibility that legislative referenda (measures approved through the legislative process) could be placed on the ballot if they are passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor before the end of the Legislative Session.

This memo identifies the eight qualified ballot measures, and provides a brief summary of each initiative.

DISCUSSION

The following eight voter initiatives are qualified for the November 8, 2005 special election:

Proposition 73: Termination of Mother's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification.

Proposition 73 would amend the California Constitution to prohibit an abortion on an unemancipated minor until 48 hours after the physician notifies the minor's parent or legal guardian, except in situations involving a medical emergency or with parental waiver. Proposition 73 would also require physicians to report abortions performed on minors and the State would be required to compile the relevant statistics.

Proposition 74: Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.

Proposition 74 would increase the length of time required before a teacher may become a permanent employee from two complete consecutive school years to five complete consecutive school years. In addition, Proposition 74 would authorize school boards to dismiss a permanent teaching employee who receives two consecutive unsatisfactory performance evaluations.

Proposition 75: Public Employees Union Dues. Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions.

Proposition 75 would prohibit public employee labor organizations from using union dues or fees for political contributions unless the employee provides prior written consent each year, and would require labor organizations to maintain and submit to the Fair Political Practices Commission records concerning individual employees' and organizations' political contributions. In addition, Proposition 75 would provide that the prohibitions from using union dues or fees for political contributions would not apply to dues or fees collected for charitable organizations, health care insurance, or other purposes directly benefiting the public employee.

Proposition 76: School Funding. State Spending.

Proposition 76 would change the state minimum school funding requirements (Proposition 98) by permitting the suspension of minimum funding, and would limit overall state spending to the prior year total plus revenue growth. Proposition 76 would also continue the prior year appropriations if a new state budget is delayed beyond the start of a new fiscal year, and would require the Governor to reduce state appropriations across-the-board, in order to meet the funding limit obligations contained in the ballot measure.

Proposition 77: Reapportionment.

Proposition 77 would amend the California Constitution's process for redistricting California's Senate, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts by requiring a three-member panel of retired judges to adopt a new redistricting plan immediately, and again after each national census. Proposition 77 would provide that the three-member panel must consider legislative and public proposals and comments and hold public hearings, and that the redistricting plan would become effective immediately when adopted by judges' panel and filed with the Secretary of State.

Proposition 78: Prescription Drugs. Discounts.

Proposition 78 would establish a discount prescription drug program, overseen by the Department of Health Services (DHS), which would enable low- and moderate-income California residents to purchase prescription drugs at reduced prices. Proposition 78 would also authorize DHS to contract with pharmacies to sell prescription drugs at agreed-upon discounted prices negotiated in advance, and to negotiate rebate agreements with drug manufacturers.

Proposition 79: Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.

Proposition 79 would provide for prescription drug discounts to Californians who qualify based on income-related standards, which would be funded through rebates from participating drug manufacturers negotiated by the Department of Health Services. Proposition 79 would also make it unlawful to engage in prescription drug profiteering, and would prohibit new Medi-Cal contracts with drug manufacturers that do not provide the Medicaid "best price" to this program, except for drugs without a therapeutic equivalent.

Proposition 80: Electric Service Providers. Regulation.

Proposition 80 would subject electric service providers to control and regulation by the California Public Utilities Commission, and would impose restrictions on electricity customers' ability to switch from private investor-owned utilities to other electric service providers. Proposition 80 would also require all retail electric sellers (instead of just private utilities) to increase renewable energy resource procurement by at least one percent each year, with 20 percent of retail sales procured from renewable energy by 2010, instead of the current statutory requirement of 2017.

Cable Programs and Rebroadcasts

Fremont:

City Council:

Live on 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 PM - Channel 27
 Scheduled Study Sessions on the 3rd Tuesday at 4 PM- Channel 27
 Rebroadcast on Wednesday at 10 Am following meetings- Channel 27

Planning Commission:

Live on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7 PM- Channel 27
 Rebroadcast the following Fridays at 10 AM - Channel 29

FUSD:

Live on 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 6 PM- channel 27

Ohlone:

Live on 2nd and 4th Wednesday at 7:15- Channel 28
 Rebroadcast on following Thursday at 7 PM and Friday at 10 AM-Channel 28

Alameda County Board of Education

Rebroadcast on Channel 27 Saturday midnight following the Board meeting.

Newark:

City Council:

Live on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 7:30 - Channel 26
 Tape in Newark Library

Planning Commission:

Live on Tuesdays before Council meetings at 7:30 -Channel 26

NUSD:

Live on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 7:30- Channel 26

Alameda County Board of Education

Rebroadcast on channel 26 Saturday midnight following the Board meeting

Union City

City Council:

Live on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays at 7 PM - Channel 15
 Rebroadcast on following Friday at 6 PM - Channel 15

Planning Commission:

Live on 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6 PM- Channel 15
 Rebroadcast on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6 PM -Channel 15

NHUSD : Live on 2nd and 4th Thursdays at 6:30 pm - Channel 27

Rebroadcast on following Tuesdays & Thursdays at 6:30 pm - Channel 27

Ohlone:

Rebroadcast on 1st Monday at 6 PM - Channel 15

Alameda County Board of Education

Rebroadcast on channel 15 Saturday midnight following the Board meeting

Washington Hospital Channel 78

Sunday: 7/17 @ 2:30 am, 10:30 am, 6:30 pm
 Monday: 7/18 @ 12:30 am, 8:30 am, 4:30 pm
 Tuesday: 7/19 @ 3:30 am, 11:30 am, 7:30 pm
 Wednesday: 7/20 @ 4:00 am, 12:00 pm, 8:00 pm
 Thursday: 7/21 @ 9:00 am, 1:00 pm, 9:00 pm
 Friday: 7/22 @ 6:00 am, 2:00 pm, 10:00 pm
 Saturday: 7/23 @ 7:00 am, 3:00 pm, 11:00 pm

HOT LANES

Pilot projects for high-occupancy toll lanes (HOT lanes) may be coming to the Bay Area in more locations than the Sunol Grade on I-680. Current law authorizes two pilot projects in Santa Clara County as well as an additional one in Alameda County. This summer the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) will be completing a study of all freeways in the county to identify HOT lanes candidates. A federal grant is being sought to fund environmental and engineering work in anticipation of a HOT lane project.

Meanwhile, Alameda County Congestion Management Agency (ACCMA) and VTA have formed the joint powers authority needed to develop and operate a HOT lane project on the southbound Sunol Grade. ACCMA is also studying how to address equity issues for low income drivers who may otherwise be priced out of HOT lanes.

—Bay Area Monitor, June/July 2005

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA ADOPTS UPDATED EDUCATION POSITION

The LWVC board has adopted the updated Education Position which now covers Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade.

Position in Brief:

Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system which meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship.

Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students.

Support a system of public education funding which is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students

Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level , with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program.

It's easy to JOIN the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join.****To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen**

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

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

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

_____ Individual Membership - \$50 _____ Household - \$75

Donate to LWVNUC _____

Donate to Ed. Fund _____

Total enclosed\$ _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

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New Member _____

Renewal _____

Transfer from _____

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to L.W.V. Ed Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, or for confidential financial dues assistance, please contact: Ann Crosbie: 510-657-3422, crosbieclan@comcast.net. LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community's diversity.

*LWVFNUC Voter**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: Miriam Keller**Treasurer: Bunny Robinson**Editor: Vesta Wilson**Office Hours:**The LWVFNUC storage office address is:**4368 Enterprise St., off Grimmer, near*
*Automall.**Materials are available 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM*
*with permission from a board member***REPEAL OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE LIMITATIONS**

In a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives, League President, Kay J. Maxwell urged members to oppose H.R. 1316, the so called "527 Fairness Act of 2005". The legislation repeals fundamental protections to our election process and is a dangerous retreat to the days of huge special interest contributions, allowing upwards of \$3 million to be given by a single individual. The House of Representatives may take up this legislation soon. Please ask your Member of Congress to oppose H.R.1316 today.

—LWVUS e-VOICE

PREPARATION FOR THE NOVEMBER, 2005 ELECTION

We now know that the decision has been made to hold a special election on November 8. Your LWVC voters service team will be working on Pros and Cons for ballot measures as they qualify. It is presumed that there will be eight, maybe nine initiatives that will qualify. As each one makes its way through the processes of the Secretary of State's office, various League members will be asked to develop the traditional LWVC Pros & Cons document.

Mission Statement

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

In Memoriam

Judy Sampley, passed away,
July, 2005



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

Watch Syeda Yunus interview Irvington H.S. Students, Lauren Ritchie and Daniel Morrissey. Topic: "We the People"

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

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Aug. 5`	Program Planning Committee	1:30 PM	TBA
Aug. 8	LWVFNUC Board Meeting	7:15PM	Joanne Lander's home
Aug. 12	Education Committee	9:00 AM	Mission Coffee (on Washington Blvd.)
Sept. 10	LWVC Workshops	9:30 AM—3:00 PM	Stanford
Sept. 24	Know Your Bay Area Day	9:30 AM— 12 noon`	Fremont Main Library