



The VOTER

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF SONOMA COUNTY**

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PROS AND CONS PRODUCTION

This year the Voters Service Committee is creating a DVD on the Pros and Cons of the propositions on the May 19, 2009 Special Election Ballot. The DVD will be produced by Angelica Tercero and her La Voz film crew. DeeDee Bridges, Lynn Camhi, Corol Ann Cary, Chlele Gummer, Anita Lytle, Ethel Schy, and Amy Southwick will present the Pros and Cons and Alice Richardson will moderate. These DVDs will be available to groups interested in learning more about the upcoming election.

If you know of community groups that might be interested in the DVD, please contact DeeDee Bridges at deedeebridges@sbcglobal.net or phone at 591-0632.

Your vote on these propositions will have a major impact on the future of our state. Go to <http://www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/elections/09may/index.html> for more information on this election.

DeeDee Bridges

MAY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING



REPORT ON JUVENILE JUSTICE IN SONOMA COUNTY

**10:30 AM TO NOON, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2009
 ROHNERT PARK – COTATI REGIONAL LIBRARY
 6250 LYNNE CONDE WAY, ROHNERT PARK**

What did we do?

What did we learn?

What do you know about?

Juvenile Hall

Diversion programs

Probation camps for boys and girls

Restorative Justice

Prevention and intervention

**What does the Juvenile Justice
Interest Group recommend?**

Driving directions: Go east on Rohnert Park Expressway from Highway 101, turn left (north) on State Farm Drive, then take the first right on City Hall Drive.

Ann Berens

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of Sonoma County**

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<http://www.lwvsonoma.org/>
See CONTACT US page to email Directors

Directors on the Executive Committee

Chlele Gummer, President
Gloria Norton, VP Administration
Susannah Likins, Treasurer
Nancy Richards, VOTER Co-editor
Phyllis Stanley, VP Action/Advocacy

Directors:

Elaine Book, Secretary
DeeDee Bridges, Voters Service
Sandy deLorimier, VP Program
Willard Richards, VOTER Co-editor
Ethel Schy, Membership

BOOK GROUP

League members and the public are invited to join the book group at 10:30 AM, Thursday, May 21, to discuss Bryan Caplan's *The Myth of the Rational Voter: Why Democracies Choose Bad Policies*. The book group will meet in the conference room immediately opposite the elevator on the third floor of 555 Fifth Street, Santa Rosa.

Caplan is associate professor of economics at George Mason University and coeditor of the weblog <http://econlog.econlib.org/>. *Myth*, published in 2007, argues that more reliance on markets rather than on democracy would produce better economic policy. It should be interesting to examine his arguments and examples in light of recent developments.

The book group meets on the third Thursday of the month except for the months of July and December. There have been some changes to the book schedule in the last month. You can download the most recent version of the schedule from the calendar listing for the group on the League's website, <http://www.lwvsonoma.org>.

If you have questions about the group, please call or send me a message.

Lynda Hungerford
lh@sonic.net 539-5770

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



On the 30th of May, you will have an opportunity to hear a final report of the Juvenile Justice Committee. For almost three years this committee has devoted much time to interviewing, researching, and writing on the subject of Juvenile Justice in Sonoma County.

They had two successful forums during the past two years with more than 100 people attending each highly informative program.

Chair Ann Berens was a Bay Area League member when she came to Windsor six years ago. She became our representative on the Sonoma County Child Care Planning Council. While a representative she pushed for more focus on older children which played some part in the SCCPC's decision to create the new Outreach Committee that focuses on violence prevention.

After teaching kindergarten for a few years in England, she emigrated to Canada where she lived for 6 years working with foster care children and raising a family. She and her husband, Robin, moved their family to the United States in 1962.

Juvenile Justice has always been an abiding interest of hers. She has great concerns that juvenile offenders are still tried as adults

Come early to get a seat as this event has been advertised to the public.

Chlele Gummer, President
707-537-1207: chleleg@sonic.net.

MAY 19 – SPECIAL ELECTION

A reminder that the League of Women Voters of California is recommending a **NO VOTE** on **Propositions 1A, 1C, 1D, and 1E**, on the May 19 Special Election ballot.

League is **neutral** on Proposition **1B** and has taken **no position** on **1F**.

See details of League positions in the April VOTER, which is available online at www.lwvsonoma.org, Publications and Newsletters.

NEW LWV UNIT BEGINS OPERATIONS IN PETALUMA

At an organizational meeting on March 8 at the home of Coral Ann Cary, ably chaired by Membership Chair, Ethel Schy, the Petaluma Unit of the LWV of Sonoma County was born.

The Petaluma Unit had its inaugural meeting on Thursday, March 19. Various topics of local concern were reviewed for LWV interest. It was decided to begin with the new recommendations that were to be presented to the City Council by the Development Code Advisory Committee. This 24-person committee was charged with reviewing the city's development code and making recommendations for its more efficient operation.

The chief point of controversy involved whether or not final approval of some major development projects could be given by the Planning Commission and Architectural Review (SPARK) Committee, acting alone, without the project coming before the City Council.

Five Petaluma League members, with their LWV buttons blazing, monitored the Petaluma City Council meeting on March 30. On the key point the Council voted 5 to 2 to reserve final approval for all major projects to the City Council itself. The Council also asked staff to come back with recommendations on merging the Planning Commission with the SPARK Committee. Two Petaluma City Council members, Teresa Barrett and David Rabbitt, who were also on the Development Code Advisory Committee, accepted invitations from the Petaluma LWV to be guests at our April 16 meeting.

The Petaluma Unit meets on the **third Thursday of the month from 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. at 11 Fifth Street, Suite 201.** This is a conference room in the Fidelity National Title Co. building at B St. Petaluma area League members are invited to our next meeting on Thursday, May 21 at 3:30 P.M.

Stan Gold

763-1925 sngold@juno.com



VOTERS SERVICE

The Landfill Forum on March 30 was very well attended – a full house at Santa Rosa City Council Chambers. The audience had a chance to ask questions after hearing the many aspects of the landfill situation from a group of knowledgeable panelists. Thanks to Bob Hawthorne, Chlele Gummer, Ethel Schy, and Anita Lytle for their help in collecting and sorting questions and to Will Richards for working with the Community Media Center to arrange the live broadcast of the forum in Santa Rosa and numerous rebroadcasts throughout the County.

Next on the agenda is the production of a DVD of the Pros and Cons for the special election on May 19. We have studio and time lined up for the taping and we have presenters preparing their scripts. We will have a rehearsal on Thursday, April 16 and taping on Friday, April 17. The DVD should be ready for distribution a week later.

I have some names to contact and request their help at the Logic and Accuracy Board for the Registrar of Voters.

Easy Voter guides should arrive during the week of April 10-17.

DeeDee Bridges

SPIRIT OF DEMOCRACY: GLOBAL PROSPECTS FOR FREEDOM

The Sonoma County Chapters of the United Nations Association and the World Affairs Council will present a program on democracy on Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 PM at Spring Lake Village, 555 Montgomery Drive, Santa Rosa. Admission is free.

Since 1974, nearly 90 countries have made transitions to democracy. But, due to a multitude of problems, democracy has been sliding back in some important countries. Speaker Larry Diamond will discuss the challenges facing emerging democracies.

Mr. Diamond is a professor at Stanford University and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution as well as holding other posts. He has published a number of works on developing democracy in countries which include Iraq, Iran, India and Nigeria.

Beth Martinez

ADVOCACY/ACTION COMMITTEE

The Committee approved a letter to Supervisors Zane and Carrillo asking them to support making campaign finance reports more accessible by posting them on the County website. In addition, a letter to the Board of Supervisors concerning the location of the Dutra Asphalt Plant in Petaluma was approved. The League favors land use decisions that protect the overall quality of the environment and provide for the preservation of open space for adequate parks and recreation. This refers to the environmentally sensitive location near Shollenberger Park.

It was noted that Congress passed H.R. 236 and S. 1272, which authorized \$25 million for a water reuse project in the North Bay. The League had opposed these bills fearing that they fail to set limits on exporting water to other watersheds or to set any priority for the recycled water to be used first to reduce local potable water demands. The bill did not address the impacts of those withdrawals from water agency sources, mainly the Russian and Eel Rivers and Sonoma County groundwater.

Green building in our various communities was discussed. On April 28, the Santa Rosa City Council will respond to changes in building design requirements in the city. Refer to the city website www.srcity.org.

Phyllis Stanley

OFFICE MOVE

The move is done. The real movers and shakers who should be congratulated are Nancy and Will Richards for arranging movers, truck, packing, hauling as well as sorting out materials to be tossed or maintained, Chlele Gummer for all of the above plus getting keys, and attending to many other details, and Susannah Likins for dealing with lease details/requirements and help in finding appropriate space. And, of course, Ethyl Schy, DeeDee Bridges, Liz Hawthorne for helping in packing. Alice Richardson dealt with postal change of address and bulk mail permit requirements as well as pitching in on moving day. Mostly I sat back and watched! As for other details, we have labels with the new address that can be used until we need to have stationery reordered. Thanks to all, and please let me know when you see something that still needs to be addressed to make this a smooth transition.

Gloria Norton

BOARD BRIEFS

W. Richards requested that copies of the DVD of the forum on Solid Waste in Sonoma County be made available to the public. Board approved. A donation will be suggested.

Bonnie Hamlin, the Member Services Director for LWVC, was a guest at Board meeting. (See the article on her visit on page 5.)

S. Likins reported that League will probably not receive any funds from the Community Foundation in the coming year. We will need to dip into our reserve funds if there is a reduction in income.

The board approved the Action/Advocacy committee's letter to the Supervisors Zane and Carrillo asking that they recommend the Supervisors approve posting campaign finance reports filed with the County on the County website.

W. Richards reported that the County is revising its Comprehensive Transportation Plan. The Draft EIR will be available soon and may not have an adequate analysis of greenhouse gas emissions. This will be an opportunity for League to comment.

First Tuesday of the month board meetings may be changed to a different day. This will be discussed at the old board/new board meeting in the summer.

Nancy Richards

CURIOUS ABOUT MAY 19 ELECTION?

The Oakmont Unit of the League will meet at the home of Lynda Hungerford on Saturday, May 2. We will show a DVD on the coming May 19 election issues. The meeting will last from 1:00 to 2:30 PM. All Oakmont and Kenwood members and friends are invited to attend. If you have questions or need a ride, please call Phyllis Stanley at 539-1696.

Phyllis Stanley



CHANGES IN LWVC

The League of Women Voters of California board member, Bonnie Hamlin, met with the local board on Tuesday, April 7. She is the Member Services Director and she is also in charge of the MTA (Management Training Assistant) program. She discussed some changes that the State League has made or is considering making.

During the past year and a half the State League has been evaluating all of its programs and activities. It has decided that the State League should focus on those issues for which League is best known, i.e., *Voting, Democracy, and Civic Engagement*. To that end, State League will choose to study and advocate for those issues and state bills that encompass the three issues of emphasis. This will not change what local leagues choose to focus on.

In addition, State League will discontinue publication of the *Pros and Cons*. It is felt that the State of California publishes and distributes to every voting household in the State a sample ballot which contains a synopsis of the ballot measures. Information in this synopsis is very similar to what was produced in *Pros and Cons* so there is not the need for League to duplicate this information. Also, production of the *Pros and Cons* is costly, requires a great deal of work, and requests are declining. State League will continue to produce *"In Depth"* and to make it available online at the Members Only website.

The State League will continue to be the managing agency for the *Easy Voter Guide*. There seems to be more demand for this guide than for the *Pros and Cons*, and the cost of production is covered by a grant.

Board member Hamlin gave a clear and concise report. She is very knowledgeable and we are extremely fortunate to have her working on our State Board.

Nancy Richards

WHAT HAPPENED TO "SWEET PEA"?

Last month The VOTER announced that our new address is Suite 300 P. This month, the new address is Suite 300 O. The initial information we were given was incorrect. Mail and visitors can find us at either address, so there is no need to discard items with the wrong address.

Willard Richards

QUICK FACTS ON HEALTH CARE COSTS

- Total health spending in the U.S. reached \$2.1 trillion in 2007 – or \$7,026 per capita.
- By 2016, total health spending is projected to rise to \$4.2 trillion.
- Between 2005 – 2006, total health spending increased 6.7 percent, more than double the rate of the 2.9 percent increase in overall economic growth.
- Total health spending remained relatively constant at about 16 percent of gross domestic product from 2003 – 2006, but is projected to increase to 19.5 percent by 2017.
- Spending for home health care increased at a faster pace from 2005 – 2006 (9.9 percent) than any other category of health spending; however, its impact is limited because it accounts overall for only 2.5 percent of total health spending.
- Yearly prescription drug spending growth accelerated in 2006 to 8.5 percent from a low of 5.8 percent in 2005, in part because of full implementation of Medicare Part D.
- Between 2006 and 2007, premiums for health coverage offered by employers increased 6.1 percent, the fourth straight year of declines in the rate of premium growth, from a peak of 13.9 percent in 2003. Even so, this was more than twice the rate of growth in the Consumer Price Index.
- Of every dollar spent on health services in the U.S. in 2006, 46 cents came directly from government sources.
- Costs for program administration and the net cost of private health insurance were about 7 percent of total health spending in the U.S. in 2006 and grew 8.8 percent, a marked increase over the 3.6 percent rise in 2005.

This list (without the original endnotes) is from "A Reporter's Toolkit: Health Care Costs" (an Alliance for Health Reform Toolkit produced with support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and is reproduced here courtesy of the Alliance for Health Care. The entire toolkit can be found at

http://www.allhealth.org/Publications/Cost_of_health_care/health_care_costs_toolkit.asp#keyfacts.

Resource provided by the LWVUS Health Care Education Task Force, 2009.

NEW MEMBERS

LOCAL MEMBERS

Virginia Benson
Guerneville, CA 95446

Connie Coddling
Rohnert Park, CA 94927

La Verne Stout
Petaluma, CA 94952

Gail Whooley
Petaluma, CA 94952

NATIONAL MEMBERS

Jeanette Anglin
Penngrove, CA 94951

Leslie Balestreri
Petaluma, CA 94953

Elizabeth Candlish
Dillon Beach CA 94929

Joyce Schafer
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Anne Seeley
Santa Rosa, CA 95404

Elaine Tullson
Santa Rosa. CA 95404

SPELLING CORRECTION

Rosalind Morino

ADDRESS CHANGE

Margaret Millner
McCloud, CA 96507

Contact information has been deleted from this Internet version of The VOTER to preserve privacy.

NEW MEMBER PROFILES

ELLIE STANFIELD grew up in Arizona, moved to Sebastopol about 20 years ago and now lives in Santa Rosa. She is married to a lawyer and they have 4 sons. Before retiring she taught school in Arizona. Ellie's many interests include bridge, friends, and gardening. In fact, she is a Master Gardener, a volunteer docent at Bouvarie Audubon Preserve and a member of Assistance League. Her husband, Bill, has Alzheimer's and is living at the Veteran's Home in Yountville, coming home often for visits. She has been politically inclined all her life, and the last election made her want to become more active. What better way than to join League! Welcome, Ellie.

JZOY MAGDALEN grew up in Forestville and is a returning long time Sonoma County League member. After receiving her BA from UC Berkeley, she taught in area elementary schools and in France. Her daughter is an attorney and her son is a winemaker owner of the Old World Winery on River Road. While her children were in school, she and a group of friends created the Student Voting Project, which developed a nonpartisan curriculum for grades K-12. Sonoma County LWV, among many other organizations supported this project, funded by a local bank, by delivering requested non-partisan materials to teachers.

Jzoy is now an empty nester and has interests in gardening and developing self-awareness through spiritual pursuits. She continues to have an interest in voter service. Welcome back Jzoy.

Muriel Smith Membership Committee



There's something special in your own backyard.

Be a part of it!
Become a member.
Become a volunteer.

For Membership call Emily
@ 579-4452 # 108
To Volunteer call Kristi
@ 579-4452 ext. 116

or visit www.SchulzMuseum.org
click on "Membership" or "Volunteers"



HURRY TO THE MUSEUM AND REMEMBER WHY YOU LOVE PEANUTS!

MISSION

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We do not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. We do, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.



League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

Fax _____ Email _____

I am interested in the following areas:

Program _____ Membership _____

Speakers Bureau _____ Social Policy _____

Natural Resources _____ Voters Service _____

Newsletter _____ Fundraising _____

Cable TV _____ Smart Voter _____

Community

Outreach _____ Website _____

Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters. Enclosed is my check for dues. (\$60.00 for individual annual membership, \$90.00 for household, and \$40.00 for limited income. The membership year is July 1 to June 30.) Please mail check to LWV Sonoma County, 555 Fifth St., Suite 300 O, Santa Rosa, CA 95404. Thank you.

The League of Women Voters
of Sonoma County
555 Fifth Street, Suite 300 O
Santa Rosa, CA 95401

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Time Dated Material

The VOTER, a publication of The League of Women Voters® of Sonoma County, is published monthly except during the summer, i.e. ten regular issues per year. The deadline is the 10th of the month preceding the issue month.

MAY 2009 CALENDAR

*Unless otherwise noted, meetings are free and open to the public.
The third floor conference room is opposite the elevator.*

Date	Time	Place	Description
Monday May 4	1:00 to 3:00 PM	Contact Ann Berens 836-9822	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting First and third Mondays
Tuesday May 5	10:00 AM to Noon	League Office, 555 Fifth St. Third Floor Conference Room	LWVSC Board Meeting First Tuesday League members only except by invitation
Thursday May 7	10:00 AM	League Office, 555 Fifth St. Third Floor Conference Room	Voter Service Meeting First Thursday
Monday May 18	1:00 to 3:00 PM	League Office, 555 Fifth St. Third Floor Conference Room	Juvenile Justice Interest Group Meeting First and third Mondays
Thursday May 21	10:30 AM	League Office, 555 Fifth St. Third Floor Conference Room	Book Group. See page 2 Third Thursday
Thursday May 21	3:30 to 5:00 PM	11 Fifth St., Suite 201, Petaluma Conf. Rm in Fidelity Nat. Title Co.	LWVSC Petaluma Unit Third Thursday
Thursday May 28	10:00 AM	League Office, 555 Fifth St. Third Floor Conference Room	Action/Advocacy Meeting Last Thursday NEW DATE
Saturday May 30	10:30 AM to Noon	Rohnert Park - Cotati Library R.P. Expressway at State Farm Dr.	General Membership Meeting. Report on Juvenile Justice in Sonoma County. See front page.
Saturday June 13	9:45 AM to 2:00 PM	Canine Companions 2965 Dutton Ave., Santa Rosa	LWVSC Annual Meeting

Check out the League website: www.lwvsonoma.org for current dates and times for meetings and for back issues of The VOTER.