



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF EDEN AREA

# VOTER

Vol. 51 No5 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation, Special Edition* May, 2009

## CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM



Join us **Saturday, June 6th 8:30-noon**  
at **Chabot Community College's Little Theater**  
to learn how to combat climate change at the state, regional, and local level

*Expert panelists will review means of:*

- cutting greenhouse gas emissions
- developing healthier communities
- advocating against human-induced climate change

Presenters from:

**Planning for Sustainable Communities, Center for Resource Solutions, and Al Gore's Climate Change Campaign**

Exhibitors will display and provide sample products from innovative recycling programs, solar financing and much more.

*Become part of the solution!*

**RSVP by May 30<sup>th</sup>** to receive a free parking pass to  
Dr. Jennifer Ong at (510) 521-0551 or [drjenniferong@gmail.com](mailto:drjenniferong@gmail.com).  
Continental breakfast will be served.

*More about Climate Change Forum on page 3* 

This program is made possible by a grant from Oxfam of America and the League of Women Voters Education Fund.  
It is co-sponsored by the American Association of University Women.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In these tough economic times, the annual discussion of dues was a tough one. The National League raised its per member payment that each league must pay and the State League fortunately did not. So, in order for us to provide our own economic stimulus package for members, and hopefully future members, our board decided NOT to raise dues this year. This means, we are operating at a loss per member. Our bank accounts are in a position to allow that for at least a year. The board also, wants to remind everyone that we do offer a scholarship membership of just \$25 per member, the same price we charge for students. If this meets your current needs just indicate that on your renewal invoice that will be appearing in your mailbox soon.

One source of continuing income to the League is monies that come from the work of our Voter Services committee. The Registrar of Voters has a contract with the local leagues to place and service voter affidavit boxes. Our League services 79 locations, which generate about \$1,700 a year in income. Anyone wishing to help with this project should contact Helen Oertle. Way to go team! Your hard work is greatly appreciated.

It continues to sadden me to see how few people turn out for the excellent programs our League puts on. Our healthcare forum was very enlightening. We are planning an excellent half-day event on global climate change on Saturday June 6 at Chabot College. I hope that everyone makes an effort to attend that event. The problem is real and the solutions are up to us. Most importantly, we will showcase what the poorer countries are doing to help survive the changes that global warming is bringing to them. There is a lot that each individual can do to help in this country. Lessening our carbon footprint is something that must happen now.

The special election coming up on May 19, deserves a look at the state website, EasyVoter.org. Check out the League's positions on the issues and tell your friends. This is a critical election for our state budget, so please be an informed voter.

*Marianne Dimick*

## BOARD BRIEFS, April 8, 2009

- Reviewed and made suggestions on the Proposed Budget for 2009-2010.
- Voted to keep dues at their present rate of \$50 even though it doesn't cover the cost of dues we pay from that amount to national, state and Bay Area Leagues.
- Discussed various fundraisers including the Oakland A's Skybox event, and a musical production at the Douglas Morrison Little Theater in Hayward.
- Received preliminary report on the work of the Nominating Committee.
- Approved moving the date of Annual Meeting to June 25 to not conflict with the Climate Change Seminar on June 6 and the convenience of the speaker.
- Discussed whether to eliminate an auction at the Annual Holiday Party since it is a lot of work and hasn't brought in as much as in past years.
- Set a special Board meeting to review the updated LWVEA Bylaws in order to have them completed in time for submission to the membership in the Annual Meeting Kit for approval at the Annual Meeting on 6/ 25/09.

### **SAVE THE DATE LWVEA ANNUAL MEETING, June 6, 2009-- 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. San Leandro Library, Karp Room**

Our annual meeting date has been changed from Saturday June 6, to Thursday evening, June 25. We have an excellent speaker lined up for that event. Lynn Suter, a California Legislative Advocate and owner of her own lobbying firm for more than 25 years. Her firm was the first in California dealing with multiple local agencies and the first woman-owned advocacy firm in the state capitol. She is a recognized political, legislative, and fiscal strategist. Ms. Suter will give us her views on what is happening at the Capitol. She gives a no holds barred, and humorous look at California politics.

Look for more information about the Annual Meeting in the Annual Meeting Kit due out in late May.

## **MORE ON CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM**

The following information will help you get the most out of attending the Climate Change Forum on June 6.

The outstanding panelists and moderators for our Climate Change Forum and the topics they will cover are:

### **I. CAP-AND-TRADE vs. CARBON TAX**

Doug Grandt – Moderator – Trained in the field by Vice President Al Gore.

Dr. Chris Bush – Panelist – Policy Director, Center for Resource Solutions

David Pascal – Panelist – Green Business Advocate, City of San Francisco

### **II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT –SB375**

Dr. Elizabeth Morris – Moderator – Planning for Sustainable Communities, Berkeley

Stephanie Reyes – Panelist - Green Belt Alliance

Paul Campos – Panelist – Northern California Home Builders Association.

### **III. CALL TO ACTION**

Michael Sweeney, Mayor of Hayward

## **MORE ON CAP AND TRADE vs. CARBON TAX**

**Cap and Trade** - The United States must cap its greenhouse gas emissions at current levels and steadily reduce the cap to at least 25 percent below 1990 levels by 2020 and to 80-95 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. A firm cap with steadily declining reduction targets will: (1) help limit future warming, (2) promote long-term planning and investment in low-carbon technologies, (3) encourage strong action by other nations, and (4) facilitate steeper cuts in future years if called for by new scientific information.

A comprehensive, economy-wide cap-and-trade program covering all green-house gases and all major sectors and emissions sources will increase certainty that critical

emissions reduction targets are met. Complementary policies such as stronger energy efficiency standards, renewable energy standards and higher fuel economy standards will also be needed, but they are not a substitute for an effective cap on emissions.

### **Carbon Tax -**

1. Carbon taxes will lend predictability to energy prices.

2. Carbon taxes can be implemented much sooner than complex cap-and-trade systems.

3 Carbon taxes are transparent and easily understandable

4 Carbon taxes can be implemented with far less opportunity for manipulation by special interests

5 Carbon taxes address emissions of carbon from every sector, whereas cap-and-trade systems discussed to date have only targeted the electricity industry, which accounts for less than 40% of emissions.

6 Carbon tax revenues can be returned to the public through dividends or progressive tax-shifting, while the costs of cap-and-trade systems are likely to become a hidden tax as dollars flow to market participants, lawyers and consultants.



## **MORE ON SB 375 – WALKABLE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

This law will limit the state's CO-2 emissions by curbing suburban sprawl and increasing transit-based development through various incentives. If a community plans walkable, mixed-use, transit-oriented growth that reduces automobile use and greenhouse gas emissions, for example, it gets moved to the front of the line for state and federal transportation funds. If a proposed building is located near a transit line, it will have an easier environmental review process.

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE WORK OF SISTERS ON THE PLANET



*Our Climate Change program is made possible by a grant from Oxfam of America and the State League Educational Fund. The following is an excerpt from **Sisters on the Planet** an article*

*produced by Oxfam International, a group of 13 organizations working together to find lasting solutions to poverty and injustice.*

It's worth getting one thing straight from the outset. As obvious as it sounds, climate change affects everybody. That means men, women, children—and all those polar bears you've seen in the photos. We're all in this together.

But if you remember one thing about Sisters on the Planet, make it this: Climate change is already having a disproportionate impact on poor people in the U.S. and abroad, and it's hitting women hardest.

It's not the easiest idea to understand. After all, everyone gets affected during a flood. But changes in weather and extreme weather events are being felt most in poor communities. This is because poor people rely more on natural resources, are more vulnerable to disaster, and have fewer ways to protect themselves. And because women tend to do the jobs that are most affected by changes in weather, they are feeling the greatest pressure.

For example, in developing countries, it tends to be women who grow the family's food, collect fuel and water, and bring up the children. So when clean water becomes harder to find during a drought, or when crops are destroyed by floods, it's up to women to find solutions. And as the weather becomes increasingly uncertain in many places, that can feel like a near-impossible task.

Men are badly hit too, of course, but because they tend to do fewer jobs that rely on natural resources, they are usually in a much stronger position to cope and rebuild their lives. They are also more likely to be educated, to

have savings, and to have skills to earn money. And if there is no work locally, they are able to migrate to other areas to find it.

So, it's actually fairly simple. Climate change is hitting women hardest, especially in developing countries, by exacerbating inequalities that already exist. It's a problem that the four women featured in Sisters on the Planet are well aware of. But it's also one that they are determined to overcome.

These are stories of inspiration, of hope, and of the power of people to bring about change.

We all need to face up to climate change in the same way as the Sisters on the Planet, so their stories are also a rallying cry. After all, we are all in this together, which means we are all a part of the solution. That's an empowering situation and one that means we can build a better future. That future starts now. *(To read the stories of the Sisters of the Planet go to [OxFam.org](http://OxFam.org).)*

## NATIONAL LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS POSITION ON CLIMATE CONTROL

**The United States Must Take Aggressive Action To Cut Its Greenhouse Gas Emissions To Stabilize Earth's Climate**  
**The evidence is clear that human-induced climate change is underway.**

The emission of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases—primarily by the burning of fossil fuels—has

increased the blanket of heat-trapping gases in Earth's atmosphere. Global temperatures have risen approximately 0.8°C (1.4°F) above pre-industrial levels, and this small increase is already causing significant adverse effects.

These effects—documented by the world's leading climate scientists and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—include rising sea levels, intensified storms, higher global temperatures, and severe droughts and floods that are already having adverse impacts on human health, food supplies, and ecosystems, as well as national economies.



**The United States has made a commitment to stabilize the climate.**

The United States Senate ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 1992, joining over 180 nations in a commitment to “stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.”



**The United States must adopt an aggressive trajectory for reducing its emissions.**

The U.S. must stop the

“Business as Usual” emissions of greenhouse gases and impose aggressive emission reductions starting in 2010. We support adoption by the U.S. of a firm, verifiable cap that reduces emissions at least 25% below 1990 levels by 2020 and 80-95% below 1990 levels by 2050.

Even with these aggressive reductions in the U.S., the global decrease in emissions may lag, as shown in the graphic, resulting in dangerous warming. Furthermore, part of the emitted CO<sub>2</sub> remains and accumulates in the atmosphere; thus, the atmospheric concentration will continue to increase until the global rate of removal exceeds the rate of release.

**We have the capacity, responsibility and economic imperative to lead this effort internationally.**

The U.S. has met great challenges before—such as World War II and space exploration. Since we are responsible for much of the increase in atmospheric greenhouse gases, we need to accept responsibility for being the leader in solving the global climate challenge. Our efforts will transform our way of life by creating a new clean-energy economy and will allow the U.S. to maintain its technological leadership. For more info: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

**MEASURE A ON HEALTH CARE SERVICES UPDATE**

There has been some reorganization of the Measure A Oversight Committee with the inclusion of additional members and the election of new presiding officers. Beth Pollard (representing the County City Managers Association) is now chairwoman and Dr. Ron Tauber (County Mental Health Board) is vice-chairman.

The retirement of Health Agency Director, Dave Kears, has resulted in the appointment of Acting Director, Alex Briscoe, as the primary agent in assisting the Committee with technical and staff support.

Presently the Committee is engaged in preparing its annual report for FY 07-08. This should be issued shortly. Simultaneously, the Committee is reviewing requirements to be included in a new contract for preparing a FY 08-09 report.

Thus far the Committee has identified no significant deviation in the distribution of Measure A funds and that the program is satisfying the requirements described in the County Ordinance. The County Medical Center is by far the major benefactor of the ½ cent sales tax (75%) which exceeds eighty million dollars annually. Based on its reports and submissions to the Committee its performance appears to be steadily improving. The BOS continues to reserve two million dollars for discretionary projects that meet Measure A requirements. These are selected by the member’s of the BOS directly. The Committee has been concerned with the laxity in filling vacancies as members depart and also with some lack of diversity in selection. Recent actions by the BOS however, have been addressing this question.

The Committee undertook a major field trip this past year to the detoxification/sobering facilities at the Fairmont Hospital Campus in San Leandro. This is administered by Behavioral Health Care Services. The Committee was reassured that both staffing and facilities merited public commendation. More such field trips are under discussion.

*Sal Tedesco,  
League Representative on Committee*

The discussion draft of the American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES Act), released on March 31, 2009 by Representatives Waxman (D-CA) and Markey (D-MA) includes four distinct titles: I) clean energy, II) energy efficiency, III) reducing global warming pollution, and IV) transitioning to a clean energy economy. Title I contains provisions related to a federal renewable electricity standard, carbon capture and storage technology, performance standards for new coal-fueled power plants, a low carbon fuel standard, and smart grid advancement. Title II includes provisions related to building, lighting, and appliance energy efficiency programs, as well as efficiency standards for mobile sources and other transportation programs. Title IV includes proposals designed to preserve domestic competitiveness and support workers, provide assistance to consumers, and support domestic and international adaptation initiatives while transitioning to a clean energy economy. The following is a brief overview of the proposed greenhouse gas (GHG) cap-and-trade program contained in Title III.

### **Scope of Coverage**

The discussion draft would cover seven GHGs: carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), hydro-fluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), and nitrogen trifluoride (NF<sub>3</sub>). Entities covered by the proposal would include: large stationary sources emitting more than 25,000 tons per year of GHGs, producers (i.e., refineries) and importers of all petroleum fuels, residential and commercial sellers of natural gas (i.e., local distribution companies), producers of “F-gases,” and other specified sources. The proposal also calls for regulations to limit black carbon emissions in the United States.

### **Targets**

The discussion draft would establish emission caps that would reduce aggregate GHG emissions for all covered entities to 3% below their 2005 levels in 2012, 20% below 2005 levels in 2020, 42% below 2005 levels in 2030, and 83% below 2005 levels in 2050. (Note that the emissions of individual entities could rise or fall at different rates; these numbers pertain to aggregate U.S. emission levels.) Commercial production of HFCs would be addressed under Title VI of the Clean Air Act (which provides for protection of the stratospheric ozone layer), covered under a separate cap, and reduced at 3 percent per year.

### **Distribution of Allowances**

The discussion draft does not specify whether allowances would be auctioned or distributed free of charge. Nor, with the exception of allocating 5% of allowance value for reducing international deforestation, does the draft specify how the allowance value would be distributed. Both of these topics, however, are expected to be addressed in the next version of the ACES Act. The transition title (Title 4) of the discussion draft does signal support for clean technology, industrial and worker transition, adaptation, international obligations, and consumers. In addition, the draft indicates that compensatory allowances would be provided for non-emissive use of feedstocks.

### **Offsets and Cost Containment Measures**

The discussion draft would allow up to 2 billion allowance equivalent tons of offsets to be used for compliance system wide (1 billion domestic and 1 billion international); the President would be authorized to recommend that Congress alter this total number up or down. For every ton of emissions, 1.25 offset credits would be submitted (2.5 billion offset credits submitted for 2 billion tons of emissions compliance). The EPA would determine the list of eligible projects based on recommendations from an Offsets Integrity Advisory Board. There would be a multi-year compliance period (rolling 2-year period) with unlimited banking and next year borrowing with no interest. Borrowing of up to 15% of compliance obligation in years 2-5 beyond the current calendar year at 8% interest would also be allowed. The discussion draft would set up a quarterly strategic reserve auction for the purposes of cost containment using a small percentage of allowances taken from the cap each year. The initial minimum price level for the auction would be set at two times the EPA’s price forecast for year 2012 allowances (increasing in subsequent years). Up to 5% of the total annual allowances in years 2012-2016 could be auctioned from the reserve, increasing to 10% in 2017, with proceeds from the strategic reserve to be used to buy international reduced deforestation offset tons.

### **Carbon Market Oversight**

The discussion draft would require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to regulate the cash market in allowances and offsets. The President would designate regulatory responsibility for the derivatives market in allowances.

### **Interaction with State and Regional Programs**

The discussion draft would clarify that states could enact more stringent climate regulations (treated as in the Clean Air Act) with the exception of cap-and-trade programs. Under the proposal, state trading programs would be put on hold from 2012 - 2017 to give the federal system a chance to get started. If after that time, the federal system was not adequate, states would be allowed to restart their trading programs. Holders of allowances issued by California or RGGI before 12/31/2011 could be compensated through the federal program for the cost of purchasing those allowances.

## TWO MEMBERS WITH 50 YEARS OF LEAGUE SERVICE TO BE HONORED

Two active members have achieved 50 years of membership in LWVEA and enjoy fond memories of their participation.

Joan Webber joined in 1959 when Malca Chall was president. "There were maybe 30 of us in the group," she said. "I went home and said to my husband, 'I don't know what anyone's husband does or how many children they have.' It opened my eyes like a little kid" to find an organization that stretched her mind and gave her useful work to do.

She enjoyed study groups on China and on water policy. "I worked with such dedicated women," she recalled. The League was "very instrumental" in passing a \$1 billion bill for water for Southern California. "Now I'm not so sure that was such a good idea."

Joan also served as an observer for Hayward City Council meetings and got interested in city politics. She was on the committee that recommended a salary for the mayor.

She and her husband, Al, have been married for 57 years and live in the Hayward hills. They have two daughters, two grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Second 50 year member, Jo McLellan will be featured in the next VOTER. Both members will be honored at the LWVEA Annual Meeting on June 25.

*Connie Rusk, Communications Director*

## MEMBER PUBLISHES BOOK



League member Jo Ann Smith Ainsworth has had her romance novel "Out of the Dark," published by Samhain Publishers, Ltd., both electronically and in print. Almost simultaneously, a related novel, "Matilda's Song," has been e-published and will be in print in July. A reading in San Leandro brought forth "friends I hadn't seen for years," the author said. Many books were sold there.

Ainsworth has written six books in all, "to supplement my Social Security," and is working on a paranormal suspense series. Her published work is available at the San Leandro Library and will soon be at Borders Books in Alameda. *Connie Rusk, Communication Director*

## HAYWARD RESIDENTS TO VOTE ON MEASURE A – UTILITY USER TAX

Hayward residents will find Measure A on their ballot in addition to the six State Propositions.

It states: "To prevent severe cuts to Hayward city services including: maintaining firefighters, paramedics, fire stations, and neighborhood police patrols; protecting emergency response times; preserving youth/anti-gang programs, disaster preparedness, and job/economic development services; shall the City of Hayward adopt an Ordinance enacting a Utility Users Tax of 5.5% on gas, electricity, video and telecommunications services, for 10 years only, with exemptions available for low-income/lifeline users; and all money dedicated to preserving Hayward city services?"

There is no ballot argument formally opposing this measure on the ballot. (*Majority Approval Required*)

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## KEY CONCLUSIONS FROM A STATEWIDE SURVEY CONDUCTED 2/5/09 ON THE STATE CONSTITUTION

Voters are deeply unhappy with the direction of the state, and generally disapprove of the performance of state government.

Few voters are familiar with the concept of calling a state constitutional convention, and thus approach it with caution.

The scope and structure of a convention are likely to be critical elements in determining voters' ultimate level of support.

At the same time, a sizable plurality find the idea appealing, and indicate an initial desire to vote in favor of calling a convention.

Voters even more strongly support a potential ballot measure giving them the *ability* to call a convention.

*Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates  
Opinion Research & Public Policy Analysis*

## League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678

Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro  
and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,  
Cherryland, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and San Lorenzo

### IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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Dues: Regular \$50 Same Household \$25, Student \$20

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

DATE	TIME	CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
May 13	5:30pm	LWVEA Board Meeting—San Lorenzo Village Conference Room
May 15-17		LWVC State Convention—Long Beach
May 30		Bay Area League Day-Virtual Council On-line instructions to be announced
June 6	8:30-Noon	Climate Change Forum—Chabot College Library
June 25	6:00-8:00PM	Annual Meeting—San Leandro Library

**Please visit our website for up-to-date event information**

**[www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org)**