



V O T E R

LWVC ENERGY STUDY FOCUS OF UPCOMING UNIT MEETINGS

Over the past two years the LWVC Energy Update Study Committee has posted a series of four short papers designed to acquaint you with the ways in which the electricity system in California functions with its weaknesses and strengths, and with the ways in which it is governed.

Now we are approaching the time for discussion and consensus. The LWVC has posted an Energy Study Update on its website at www.ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/studies/energy. It is an 80-page document which contains comprehensive information and background on this important topic. Copies will be made for those participating in the study meetings.

On November 8, Proposition 80 proposes changing the responsibilities of the Public Utilities Commission to avoid another energy crisis and drain on our budget. The topic of Energy is not only timely, it is critical to the economy of our state and the welfare of every Californian.

The following are the Consensus Questions that we will be discussing and answering at our upcoming unit meetings which will take place in early February.

- What values should be considered in electric policy decision-making in the coming decade? Reasonable rates, customer choice of provider, environmental protection, reliability of service, transparency and efficiency of government; social equity and environmental justice, encouraging a strong industrial base, public participation in the process.

(continued on page 4)

HOLIDAY PARTY Friday, Dec. 2

In addition to the good food and wonderful conversation, we think you will agree that the highlight of our annual holiday party is the auction. The party planner elves have outdone themselves this year. A partial list of our auction items include:

- A weekend at a cabin in Tahoe
 - A gourmet dinner for six
- Tickets to outstanding sports events
 - Congressional tree ornaments
 - Coffee or lunch with your favorite elected officials

Although we have these and many more great auction items, we can always use more. If you would like to participate, here are a few things you can donate:

- A ride to the airport
 - Dog sitting time
- Help someone with their gardening
 - A healthful massage
- Bake and deliver homemade cookies once a month for a period of time
 - Other ??

If you have an auction item or service to donate, let Marianne Dimick know. You may reach her at (510) 581-9326

**SEE THE HOLIDAY PARTY FLYER
INSIDE FOR MORE DETAILS.**

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Make the world a better place...
...from your desktop.

The League is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in government. It influences public policy through education and advocacy. It is impossible to accomplish our mission unless we have numerous dedicated volunteers. Currently, we have members registering voters and going out to groups and organizations giving them presentations on the pros and cons of the propositions for the November election. Our Board of Directors spends many hours each month on various activities.

We want to continue serving the voters of our area and being a respected source of education and unbiased information on candidates and issues. In order to do that well, we need our "support system" to be strong and reliable. We have three critical vacancies I am asking you to fill, and training is available for each position.

Treasurer: We keep our books on a simple accounting program called Quick Books. The position records deposits (mostly membership dues), and pays Board-approved expenses (averages about five checks per month). At the end of each month, a report is generated for the Board of Directors via the computer program. This position is normally filled by a Board Member, but is also a good opportunity to learn if you want to move onto the Board, Time required each month: 2-5 hours.

Database Information: Working in conjunction with the Membership Chair and the Treasurer, this position is responsible for updating a list of our members each month. Currently, we keep this information on Microsoft Access. However, it can be transferred to Excel or we can give you a portable computer that has Access on it. Time required each month: 4 hours. .

Website Coordinator: The League's Website is our link to the population we serve. It is only as valuable as the information on it is current, relevant, and accurate. This is a fun job if you like working with the Internet and learning more about Website operations. Time required each month: 4 hours.

Contact: Nancy Van Huffel, President,
510.562.4473(eve) or LWVEA@aol.com

BOARD BRIEFS

October 5, 2005

- Accepted the resignation of Marianne Dimick as Treasurer with a letter thanking her for her service.
- Reported that we have ordered affidavit voter registration forms which we will be able to pick up at Supervisor Nate Miley's office.
- Reported that we have scheduled voter registration at several local supermarkets in Hayward and Castro Valley.
- Reviewed plans for Pros & Cons Luncheon Forum on Oct. 7.
- Received update on plans for Prop 76 Forum on Oct. 17 at 7 p.m. We are using LWVCEF grant funds for postage, advertising and dessert for the meeting.
- Approved funding translating services for a Hayward School Board Candidate Forum and pros and cons for Hispanic community members on Oct. 28.
- Received report that we have six speakers and 11 groups requesting pros and cons presentations.
- Reported that we have 105 membership renewals and a list of members to call who have not renewed yet. Calls to be made by board members and membership chair.
- Reported that Student Voter Education Program has done training for presenters and has a list of high schools at which to present.
- Next meeting: Wednesday, November 5, 2005. All meetings are open to the public.



IMPORTANT WEBSITES:

LWVEA.ORG

Eden Area League calendar of events, state and local positions, and other news

Smart Voter.org

Voting and election information on local candidates and ballot initiatives

LWVEA MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED FOR 2005-06

Those in “bold” type are New Members

JoAnn	Ainsworth
Louis	Andrade
Leila	Andresen
Suzanne	Barba
Elizabeth	Bathgate
Ursula	Batz
Laura Jo	Bigham
Evelyn	Brownell
Shirley	Campbell
Malca	Chall
Vana	Chavez
Jack	Conner
Ellen	Corbett
Evelyn	Cormier
Herbert	Crowle
Marie	Culwell
Margaret	Daly
Harold	*Davis
Charlotte	Davis
Marianne	Dimick
Kevin	Dowling
Isobel	Dvorsky
Felix	*Elizalde
Brian	Foster
Rita	Freres
Janice	Friesen
Jean	Gaylord
Evelyn	Gertler
Harry	Gin
Sarah	Gonzales
Tom	*Guarino
Barbara	Halliday
Marian	*Handa
Diana	Hanna
Mary	Hayashi
Beth	*Heffner
Tona	Henninger
Ellya	*Hoex
Matt	*Jimenez

Kathleen	K-Sanchez
Marty	Kennelly
Susan	Kleebauer
Johan	Kleh
Audrey	Lepell
Alison	Lewis
Sherman	Lewis
Lillian	*Litzsey
Jo	Loss
Tanzy	Love
Gail	Lundholm
Lois	Mahaney
Susan	Mahaney
Patricia	Mann
Alexandra	Matteucci
Kathleen	*Mc Dowell
William	*McCannon
Diane	Meyerson
Mary B	Mikkelson
Cheryl	*Miraglia
Betty	Moose
Jo-Ann	Murdach
Kathy	Neal
Dr. Julia	Norton
Rosemary	Obeid
Milton	Palmer
Rosa	Palmer
Eleanor	Parker
Dorothy	Partridge
John	Partridge
Pat	Piras
Kenneth	Pon
Ethel	Pont
Michael	Pretto
Nancy	Pretto
Julie	Quayle
William	Quirk
Angela	*Reliford
Beverly	Reliford

Angelina	Reyes
Wendy	Robertson
Doris	Rodriguez
Jessie	Rogers
Linda	Sandsmark
Tony	Santos
Alice	Sarafian
Patricia	Schimke
Nancy	Schluntz
Marge	Schwab
Bill	Schwab
Joan	Seavey Thomas
Chris	Seig
Edna	Shiple-Connor
Barbara	Sidari
Frank	Sidari
Jo	Silva
Linda	Slater
Barisha	Spriggs
"Pete"	Stark
Joyce	*Starosciak
Gail	Steele
Sonya	Stone-Howes
Barbara	Storms
Cosette	Sun
Linda	Tangren
Marvin	Tangren
Patricia	Taylor
Sal	*Tedesco
Sylvia	*Tedesco
Winnie	Thompson
Nancy	Van Huffel
June	Wallace
Joan	Webber
Jean	West
Don	*Wiggins
Shelia	Young

Thanks to all of you who renewed your membership. Although we would love to have all our members be “active” members, we know that is not always possible. But, by keeping up your membership in the League—your dues are “active” in helping to support the work of National, State, Bay Area and our local League. If you do not see your name on the list above, please send your dues in as soon as possible. We are getting ready to print our new roster and want to include all members. We are also working on a State Challenge to increase our membership and your renewal will help us meet our target of increasing 10%. A membership application form is always on the back page. Our members are the life-blood of the League. We cannot meet our mission without you.

(continued from page 1)

• In planning for acquisition of new electric resources, what factors merit consideration? Diversity/mix of resources, impacts on greenhouse gas emissions, level of support for base load power requirements, availability at times of peak power demand, in-state vs. out-of-state generation, potential sites for terrorist activity.



• Should investor-owned and municipal utilities in the state be expected to adhere to the same standards for renewable resources development, demand-side management procurements, and reserve requirements?

• Since sites for power generation facilities and rights-of-way corridors are part of the statewide energy planning process, can you envision a process that would ensure that land be available to future energy development?

• We would like you to consider the impacts of customer choice and direct access on electric system reliability and customer rates. Specifically: What would you be willing to pay for customer choice?

• At present there is some debate regarding the roles of state government in planning, owning, regulating and managing the electric power system. What should the state's responsibilities and jurisdiction be in terms of the citing and the rate structures of facilities not owned by the investor-owned utilities, including proposed liquefied natural gas facilities?

• Would there be advantages in having a single California Energy Agency with responsibility for energy planning, policy, facility permitting, operational integrity and regulation?

• The water sector—conveyance, treatment, end-use and irrigation pumping—is California's largest consumer of electric power, and the demands of the water sector for on-peak power are expected to double over the coming decade. What specific improvements in

conservation, efficiency and forecasting could be carried out by water users to foster more effective use of both our water resources and our energy resources?

We know these questions sound daunting—they are. But, the materials the LWVC have compiled will help you navigate this complex topic in order to answer the consensus questions.

In addition, we are planning to ask "experts" in the field to educate and guide us in developing our responses to these questions. Our answers, compiled with those of more than 70 Leagues throughout the state, will help the LWVC come up with a position on which we can take action in the future. Because LWVC did not have a position on energy, it remained neutral on Prop 80 in the recent election.

Your participation and input at the Energy Update unit meetings is crucial. Please let Trish Taylor know if you would be interested in joining a pre-study update group in order to become more familiar with the topic before the soon-to-be scheduled unit meetings. The pre-meetings would be more like a discussion group to help understand this complex subject.

Trish can be reached at 886-1711, or email at taylorfm@sbcglobal.net. She will try to schedule discussion meetings at times convenient for those interested.

The State
League of Women Voters
is recommending a "YES" vote
on Proposition 79

and a "NO" vote on
Propositions:
73, 74, 75, 76, 77, and 78

No position on Prop 80
in the November 8, 2005 election.

CLEAN MONEY ELECTIONS

(Excerpted from LWV Oakland VOTER by Judy Cox and Anne Spanier)

Californians realize that the corrupting influence of huge sums of money on our election system threatens the democratic process, according to a recent poll by the Public Policy Institute of California.

Seventy percent of the respondents believed that special interest groups control the political decisions made in California. Only 24% of the respondents trusted their government officials to represent their interests.

Fundraising for elections has become a crisis. Candidates need to raise ever-larger sums of money. Various laws enacted over the years to control fund-raising excesses have been ruled unconstitutional. Incumbent legislators and entrenched interest groups are reluctant to change a system that benefits them.

In spite of California's failed attempts to address this issue, two states, Arizona and Maine have adopted a system of public financing of elections (Clean Money) that has shown promising results.

Assemblymember Loni Hancock from Berkeley has recently introduced a bill into the Assembly—AB583—which would set up a clean money system of public election funding in California. Formal hearings are scheduled this fall for public comment. Local Leagues will be having meetings in an effort to inform the public on this vital issue.

A Clean Money Election meeting for League members and the general public is planned for Wednesday, November 30 in the afternoon at a place to be determined in South County.

A similar meeting is planned for Saturday morning on December 3 in the Oakland area. Final details on these sessions will be emailed to members and posted on the LWVEA.org website.



Letter to Editor, Daily Review

RE: Proposition 77 (Redistricting)

This year, the League of Women Voters and other groups urged the legislature and Governor to enact redistricting reform requiring an independent commission, an open process and fair standards for drawing district boundaries.

Californians were rightly outraged at the bipartisan gerrymander in 2001 and want to prevent this from happening again. Unfortunately, Proposition 77 on the November ballot is not real reform. It unwisely entrusts the task of drawing legislative boundaries for 35 million Californians to three retired judges. True reform dictates a larger, more diverse panel that includes ordinary citizens. Moreover, the Prop 77 panel would not be required to consider vital community information in drawing boundaries.

Proposition 77 also requires a harmful mid-decade redrawing of district lines, based on outdated 2000 census data that ignores at least three million new Californians. Further, every new plan must be approved by a vote of the people—even while it is being used in elections. If the plan is rejected, we will have more plans and more elections. Can the state afford the costs, in terms of money, time and energy?

Vote NO on Prop 77. California deserves a redistricting process that counts and respects the interests of her citizens.

Nancy Van Huffel, President
League of Woman Voters—Eden Area



November 8th

LWVEA VOTER SERVICE VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN BUSY

The month of October has been a busy one for Voter Service volunteers. LWVEA received more than 12 requests for Pros and Cons presentation on all eight of the state propositions or on specific propositions. To do this, volunteers studied reams of material and attended training.

Our thanks to Angelina Reyes who coordinated our Voter Service activities and also served as a presenter. Other presenters were: Patricia Taylor, Susan Kleebauer, Meg Jurich, Suzanne Barba and Nancy Van Huffel.

Thanks to Evelyn Cormier and Jean Gaylord who coordinate Voter Registration, LWVEA members staffed registration tables at local supermarkets on weekends and at fairs in Hayward. In addition, a forum was held for the candidates for two seats on the Hayward Unified School District Board of Education. The forum was coordinated by Angelina Reyes and televised at COMCAST.



Some elected officials attending the Oct 7th forum
Front row: Alice Lai-Bitker, Gail Steele, Isobel Dvorsky
Back row: Alison Lewis, Ellen Corbett, Suzanne Barba

The Oct. 7 educational forum was on all eight propositions. Our thanks to Patricia Taylor, LWVEA Program VP who coordinated the event and was one of the panelists. Also thanks to Isobel Dvorsky who spoke at both forums, Sarah Gonzalez, Trustee, Hayward School District Board, and Suzanne Barba, Board Member, Eden Medical Center.

An educational forum was held on the Prop 76 with a panel of experts on Oct. 17. A special thank you Isobel Dvorsky, Trustee on Chabot-Las Positas Community College Board; Assemblymember Johan Klehs; Ellen Corbett, former Assemblymember; Luis Buhler, Bay Area Chair for the California Republican Party; George Bruno, former candidate for Congress; and Roseann Slonsky-Breault, representing the California Women's Leadership Association. Moderator was Richard Winnie, Alameda County Counsel. Committee, California Republican Party; George Bruno, former candidate for Congress; and Roseann Slonsky-Breault, representing the California Women's Leadership Association. Moderator was Richard Winnie, Alameda County Counsel.



Left to right: Luis Buhler, George Bruno, Roseann Slonsky-Breault, Richard Winnie, Johan Klehs, Isobel Dvorsky, Ellen Corbett

Prop 76 is a complicated initiative. It would amend the state constitution to give the governor additional powers to reduce spending without the option for legislative override. It creates new spending limits and revises provisions relating to minimum funding for public K-12 schools and community colleges.

These features were viewed differently by the proposition's advocates and opponents. Supporters said it would lead to more stable state budgeting, opponents said it would destabilize educational budgets by allowing constant revisions and reductions determined by one person, the governor.

Luis P. Buhler, Bay Area County Chairman for the Republican Party, pointed out that Prop 76 is designed to essentially take Sacramento back from the special interests and to reign in California's record deficit and out-of-control spending. The state has had ongoing revenue shortfalls since the fiscal downturn of 2001. Sacramento should have to live by the same rule you and I and all our families have to live by: don't spend more money than you bring in, Buhler said.

Johan Klehs, Democratic Assemblymember from the 18th District, noted that Prop. 76 gives the governor too much power and doesn't provide a necessary system of checks and balances. Klehs added that the projections are often off by about four percent and that expecting less than one and one-half percent fluctuation is unreasonable. Since the governor is already required to provide a balanced state budget and can delete programs with a line-item veto, Klehs indicated that Prop. 76 is unnecessary."

Thanks to League Member Linda Sandmark, San Leandro Times, who contributed towards this article, plus took the photo for the Oct 7th forum.



Friday, December 2, 2005
5:30 - 8:00 pm

At the home of June Wallace
18223 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley

Silent & Live Auctions to benefit LWVEA Programs

Auction Items

- * Two nights at Tahoe condo
- * Congressional Ornaments
- *Oakland Warrior box tickets
- *Oakland Raider Autographed Items
- * Gourmet Dinner for six
- * Ride on a fire truck
- *Lunch or coffee with local elected officials
- * Many other exciting items

RSVP BY Nov. 30, 2005 to Suzanne Barba (510) 538-9678

NEED A RIDE? DON'T HESITATE TO CALL TO BE PICKED-UP

Call Trish Taylor at **(510) 886-1711**

Cost: \$10 donation

AUCTION ITEMS NEED TO BE DONATED BY NOVEMBER 30TH

Further info on auction items contact: Marianne Dimick @ (510) 581-9326

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

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Dues: Regular - \$48 Same Household - \$24 Student - \$20
Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible.
Contributions to the LWVEA Education Fund ARE deductible to the extent allowed by the law.

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.

Calendar of upcoming events

All members and the public are welcome.

NOV

- 2 LWVEA Board Meeting, 11:45-1:30p.m.,
San Lorenzo Village Homes Association
- 8 ELECTION DAY. Don't forget to VOTE.
- 30 Clean Money Elections Luncheon
meeting. Time & Place TBA.

DEC

- 2 LWVEA Holiday Party 5:30 p.m. (See flyer
on page 7.)
- 3 Clean Money Election breakfast meeting
in Oakland area. Time & Place TBA.
- 7 LWVEA Board Meeting, 11:45-1:30 p.m.
San Lorenzo Village Homes Association
- TBA New Member Orientation

JAN

- 4 LWVEA Board Meeting, 11:45-1:30 p.m.
San Lorenzo Village Homes Association
- 21 LWVEA Program Planning Membership
Meeting, 9-Noon. Place TBA.
- 27 Bay Area League Day, State of the Bay –
Restoration & Access. Unitarian
Universalist. Church in Oakland. 9-Noon.

HAVE A QUESTION?

CONTACT A LWVEA BOARD MEMBER

- Nancy VanHuffel – President
276-4554 X6 or lwvea@aol.com
- Trish Taylor – VP Admin/Program
886-1711 or taylorfm@sonic.net
- Jo Murdach – VP Membership
5816794 or allisonandjo@hotmail.com
- Suzanne Barba – Secretary
538-9678 or suzbarba@comcast.net
- Pat Piras – Local legislative Action
278-1631 or piras@ix.netcom.com
- Beverly Reiford – Social Policy
887-0671 or relifordb@aol.com
- Evelyn Cormier – Voter Services
471-0475 or evcormier@earthlink.net
- Jean Gaylord – Voter Registration
537-6722 or gaylords51@aol.com
- Angelina Reyes – Voter Services
583-4405 or angier@ci.hayward.ca.us
- Eleanor Parker – Historian
925-837-2905 or eliparker@comcast.net
- Melody Kearney – VOTER layout
583-8818 melody.kearney@asm.ca.gov