



VOTER

League of Women Voters of Southwest Riverside County

Issue 6, Volume 21

August 2006

Criteria Established for Candidate Participation in LWVCEF Debates

SACRAMENTO, Calif., July 17 -- During a meeting in Bakersfield, CA on July 16 the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund (LWVCEF) Board of Directors established criteria for participation in its candidate debates and forums.

In order to participate in an LWVCEF forum or debate, a candidate for statewide office in the November 2006 general election must meet all of the following criteria:

The candidate must be eligible for the office according to the Constitution of the State of California and the Constitution of the United States of America.

The candidate must be a legally qualified candidate for the office sought, as defined by California law.

The candidate must have made a public announcement of his or her candidacy.

The candidate must show evidence that a formal campaign is being waged.

The candidate must demonstrate sufficient voter interest and support, as evidenced by receipt of at least **ten percent** support in a specified statewide nonpartisan public opinion poll that includes all candidates for the office, conducted not less than 14 or more than 40 days prior to the debate.

Federal law prohibits the inclusion or exclusion of any candidate from a debate based solely on party affiliation.

"The League, nationwide, has a long history of using polling results as a criterion for candidate participation. We feel that a statewide nonpartisan poll is the best way to insure that voters get the maximum amount of information about candidates likely to be elected," said Roberta Davis, Chair of the LWVCEF.

The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund is a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization which conducts voter service and citizen education activities.

CALENDAR

Desert Unit

This Unit is dark until September.

Contact: Betty Mann, Unit Chair, (760) 200-38
blm65054@worldnet.att.net

Board Meeting for August

Tuesday, August 8

1:30pm

Sprouts Natural Foods Market

40458 Winchester Road

Temecula, CA 92591

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, August 19

1:00-3:00pm

Community Room

Provident Bank

1690 E. Florida Avenue

Hemet, CA 92544

For a more complete calendar of League events, go to www.swrc.ca.lwvnet.org

WANTED

A treasurer is needed to:

Pay the Bills

Deposit Checks

Balance the Checkbook

Maintain the Membership Roster

Some computer experience helpful. For more information, please call Charolette Fox at 951-302-0180, or Diane Mitchell at 951-927-1775

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



JULY VOTER SERVICE ACTIVITIES

On July 22, this League hosted a public meeting on SB 61, legislation that took effect on July 1. The purpose of this informational meeting was to acquaint homeowners with state requirements for neutral, third-party election inspectors for Homeowner Associations (HOAs). Representatives from Leagues in Orange, San Diego, San Bernardino and Los Angeles Counties attended to hear Marjorie Murray's presentation.

Copies of SB 61 were handed out and Marjorie reviewed the provisions one by one. The meeting was interactive with homeowners, HOA board members, and League members sharing information. The need for accurate information was apparent when attendees related that their property managers or hired legal counsel had presented quite different interpretations of the content and full scope of the legislation. The result has been misinformation and confusion.

As author of the SB 61 (and SB 1560 currently moving through the California legislature), State Senator Jim Battin's office is a valuable resource. Call Kim at the Palm Springs district office, 760-568-1501 or email Jim.Battin@sen.ca.gov.

The number of homeowner associations is growing in Southern California. As new residential communities are built, more associations are born. Each must elect their first board and begin the process of self government. Locating a trustworthy, conscientious, and knowledgeable neutral third-party election inspector and/or election poll workers will become a first priority. These are some ways that League of Women Voters can provide election help:

- a) Serve as election inspector/poll workers to receive, open, count, and certify the balloting process;

- b) Serve as a nonpartisan conduit for accurate information to the public;
- c) Serve as elections trainers, training homeowner boards.

The LWVC will be polling local League leaders to ask what past experience they've had conducting elections for tribal governments, community colleges, or homeowner associations. The results of the poll will provide a starting point for designing regional training sessions.

A short list of possible services that the state League might consider providing in future includes:

- web-based learning sessions
- a "How To" manual with facts, templates, suggested fee schedules, etc, including a follow-up report form to be submitted after each election
- a "certification" process for participating local Leagues and a list of "certified" League inspectors.

Nothing is cast in stone at this point, and more discussions and evaluation of resources is taking place. These possible services would be educational activities for members and the public, and be under the aegis of the LWVCEF, the 501(c) (3), side of League of Women Voters of California.

Ask your local President for more information. If you would like to volunteer ideas or help on a committee or task force, contact LWVCEF Director Robbie Davis at edfund@lwvc.org.

The San Diego City Council initiated an Election Task Force to help them set up city-wide election procedures. If you would like to learn more about the Task Force, voter service in general, or about Instant Runoff Voting in particular, plan to attend the next Task Force Meeting to be held on Saturday, August 12th, at the Mission Valley Library in San Diego. The host group is Common Cause of San Diego. No cost to attend.

***Meeting details:
Saturday, August 12, 2006
12:00 - 2:00 pm
Mission Valley Library, Community Room
2123 Fenton Parkway
San Diego, CA 92108***

Contact toll free 866-952-4222 or email ca-info@commoncause.org for more information.

BALLOT MEASURES FOR NOVEMBER, 2006

(adopted July 16th, by LWVC Board of Directors)

These statewide positions on the 2006 General Election are presented for your information. Contact your local League president for more material, or contact Jack Sullivan at legislation@lwvc.org, or Trudy Schafer at tschafer@lwvc.org if you have questions on a particular measure.

NEUTRAL - PROP 1A - Transportation Investment Fund

SUPPORT - PROP 1B - Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006

SUPPORT - PROP 1C - Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006

SUPPORT - PROP 1D - Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006

SUPPORT - PROP 1E - Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006

NO POSITION-PROP 83 (Jessica's Law) - The LWVUS nor the LWVC has an applicable position which would allow us to support, oppose or remain neutral on this proposition.

SUPPORT - PROP 84 - Water Quality, Safety and Supply; Flood Control; Natural Resource Protection; Park Improvements

OPPOSE - PROP 85 - Reproductive Choices: Waiting Period, Parental Notification, Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.

SUPPORT - PROP 86 - Tax on Cigarettes

NEUTRAL - PROP 87 - Alternative Energy; Research, Production, Incentives; Tax on California Oil

OPPOSE - PROP 88 - Education Funding; Real Property Parcel Tax

SUPPORT - PROP 89 - Political Campaigns; Public Financing; Contribution and Expenditure Limits

OPPOSE - PROP 90 - Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property

Q: How does LWVC arrive at legislative positions?

A: Using our policies and position statements as a guideline, as well as legislative priorities set by the voting delegates at Convention, the League of Women Voters of California carefully considers each of the ballot measures for statewide primary and general elections. Trudy Schafer and the LWVC Legislation Committee meet frequently via email, phone conference calls, and meetings in Sacramento. Off-board consultants and program directors

are included in the discussions. The decision to support, oppose, remain neutral, or take no position, is reached only after our internal discussion process as well as input from the Secretary of State, authors of the bills, (and frequently, the opponents and supporters of each measure) has been carefully reviewed.

Occasionally, as in the case of Proposition 83, the League must take "no position"—we simply do not have a state or national position which we can act under.

Occasionally, we have positions which can be supportive in general but are in conflict with other of our positions (at state or national levels). The League can only be "neutral" in such instances, and individual members must determine which way they are most persuaded to vote on the merits of the measure.

Positions of "support" or "oppose" are usually clear-cut. However, as the political, social and economic factors of issues are often very complex, the decision on a particular measure can come uncomfortably close, and at times point out the need to re-define our priorities or even to re-evaluate our basic League positions. When this happens, the Legislative and Program Committees evaluate the situation and may develop recommendations for member consideration at the next biennial Convention.

Members can stay informed through e-lists, League web sites, member newsletters and Calls to Action. Visit www.smartvoter.org or www.ca.lwv.org for archived and current information on League positions and/or election updates.



Victory on the Voting Rights Act

Together we achieved the goal of reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act (VRA) before the congressional recess in August! This victory was the result of tremendous League activity, throughout the country and on the Hill, in support of the bicameral bill to renew the VRA, "The Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006," H.R. 9 and S. 2703. On July 13, the [House](#) overwhelmingly passed H.R. 9, 390-33. All amendments were defeated, thwarting efforts by some to weaken the VRA. The [Senate](#) quickly followed suit, passing S. 2703 unanimously, 98-0, on July 20. President Bush signed the bill into law on July 27. This success was celebrated by the large and diverse coalition of groups who worked for more than a year to reauthorize the VRA. League members can be proud of the extraordinary contributions of our local, state, and national Leagues as we advocated together for the renewal of the landmark civil rights law.

**LWVUS Provides These Sample Questions for
Inclusion in Debates or Local League Voters'
Guides Publications**

1. What should be done, if anything, at the federal level to reduce our use of and dependence on fossil fuels?
2. What should be our short term and long term goals in Iraq?
3. What should the federal government do, if anything, to ensure that every American has health coverage?
4. What should be done at the federal level, if anything, to combat the high cost of prescription drugs?
5. Do you support setting spending limits for political campaigns and providing a set amount of public funding for all candidates who agree to take no private contributions? Explain.
6. Do you think that lobbyists and other powerful interests should continue to pay for trips and travel for Members of Congress? Explain.
7. Is the U.S. Congress appropriately fulfilling its constitutional role to check the power of the executive branch? Is the judiciary performing its appropriate role as the third branch of government? Explain.
8. What measures would you support, if any, to enfranchise American citizens living in the District of Columbia who currently do not have voting representation in the U.S. Congress?
9. Are you concerned about the increasing amounts of secrecy – and decreased access to public information – at all levels of government? If so, what solutions do you suggest?
10. How can civil liberties be preserved while giving our government necessary tools to fight terrorism?

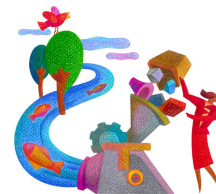
**CALLING ALL MEMBERS !!
Your attendance is required on Saturday,
August 19th, 1:00-3:00pm to vote on business
urgent to the continued operation of this
League for 2006-2007. Annual dues and
Survey forms may be returned in advance by
mail or delivered in person to the meeting.**

**Community Room
Provident Bank
1690 E. Florida Avenue
Hemet, CA 92544**

GLOBAL WARMING AND “AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH”

The film, co-produced by NRDC trustee Laurie David, presents a powerful depiction of the choice before us: we can avert a global warming catastrophe with solutions that exist today, or we can condemn the world's children to a future of drought, disease, floods and lost ecosystems. With wit, intelligence and hope, "An Inconvenient Truth" ultimately brings home the argument that we can no longer afford to view global warming as a political issue, but rather as one of the biggest moral challenges facing our global civilization.

*To watch a trailer from the film “An Inconvenient Truth” or to learn more about global warming, go to <http://www.climatecrisis.net>
To find where and when the movie will be playing near you, go to <http://www.climatecrisis.net/findatheater>*



IT BEARS REPEATING...

AB 2118 (Matthews) - Waste-to-Energy

Increased conservation of energy and protection of the environment is becoming more and more achievable. Under existing law, each city, county, and regional agency is already required to develop a source reduction and recycling element. Most have, but source reduction targets remain unmet by some cities. As the need to reduce landfill sites becomes apparent, there is more opportunity for better utilization and extended life for existing sites. Converting waste to energy makes sense.

AB 2118 would define the term “solid waste facility” to include conversion technology facilities (waste-to-energy plants), and would revise the methods for determining the amount of solid waste required to be diverted. The diversion rate was 50% of source reduction, recycling, and composting activities on or after January 1, 2000.

According to CogenWorks, a coalition for energy efficiency and reliability, “Cogeneration is one of the state’s most efficient, local, reliable and environmentally-sound sources of electricity. But at a time when California needs it most, the state is at risk of losing it.” There are a total of 776 cogeneration projects in California, operated by various industries, institutions, agriculture, or crude oil producers. All will soon need to renew their contracts with California’s investor-owned utilities. www.CogenWorks.com.

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

Be thankful that American elections are by ballots—not bullets. We count the returns—not the remains.

The most dangerous vote in America is the vote that is not used.

What we need is a ballot with a space for “Remarks.”

BUSINESS REPORT

An informational forum on legislation regarding Homeowner Association (HOA) elections was held Saturday, July 21, at the Temecula library. SB 61 and SB 1560, two bills by Rep. Jim Battin of Riverside County, detail how these Common Interest Development elections shall be conducted and define the role of a third-party election inspector. The forum was well attended.

Using information and experience that some state and local Leagues have had, the LWVC Board of Directors is currently defining procedures and guidelines for local Leagues to use as third-party election inspectors.

More information, as well as extensive training, will be provided. Dates and locations of trainings will be announced.

Charolette Fox

Guests are always welcome !!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

ALL MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO ATTEND THE BUSINESS MEETING ON AUGUST 19. DECISIONS OF LEADERSHIP, ELECTION SUPPORT FOR NOVEMBER, AND PROGRAM FOR 2006-2007 REQUIRE THAT A QUORUM OF MEMBERS BE PRESENT AND VOTING.



DID YOU NOTICE?

The last page of every e-newsletter is a page with membership information? It can also be used as a mailing “wrapper.” Just add postage to mail a hardcopy of the newsletter to friends not on the internet!



To insure that your newsletter and other correspondence reaches you, please remember to report changes to us.

Contact Charolette Fox (951) 302-0180.

PLEASE REMEMBER US IN YOUR WILL OR TRUST



Safeguarding the U.S. Democracy Grant Application Deadline: August 15

There are many opportunities to educate citizens about the importance of safeguarding U.S. democracy by promoting an independent judiciary and defending the U.S. Constitution. The issues are many and addressing them in a unified and multi-year manner will have an increased positive impact on our democracy.

If you would be interested in our League participating in the “Safeguarding U.S. Democracy” program, please contact Charolette Fox at lottiefox@verizon.net.

VOTER

League of Women Voters of Southwest Riverside County

P.O. BOX 893670
Temecula, CA 92591

Address Correction Requested

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

If you enjoyed this issue, why not share it with a friend? Please pass it on and help us build our readership
Thank you.

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The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League does not support or oppose political parties or candidates. We do, however, advocate for or against issues based on positions arrived at by member consensus. Membership is open to men and women of voting age.

It's easy to join the League of Women Voters!

ANNUAL DUES (include membership in local, California, and National Leagues):

Individual - \$50.00
Household - \$25.00, each added member
Student - \$36.00

Make checks payable to:
LWV Southwest Riverside County

Mail to: Charolette Fox
32800 Hupa Drive
Temecula, CA 92592

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Check one: _____ new _____ renewal

Contribution: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT OF CHECK: _____

Member dues are not tax deductible.
Other contributions to the League are tax deductible for Federal Income Tax Purposes. To send a donation, make your check payable to: LWVSRC Ed Fund.