



**ANNUAL MEETING 2005: Saturday, June 11**

10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

State Capital Building, Auditorium, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco

**AGENDA**

<b>9:30</b>	<b>Coffee &amp; Light Refreshments</b>	
<b>10:00</b>	<b>Call to Order</b> Adoption of Rules of the Day Introduction of Timekeeper Appointment of Reading Committee for Annual Meeting Minutes	<i>Adele Fasick</i>
<b>10:10</b>	<b>Presentation of Guest Speaker</b> <i>Julian Potter, Policy Director for the Mayor's Office (see bio page 5)</i>	<i>Susan Sun</i>
<b>10:40</b>	<b>Break</b>	
<b>10:45</b>	<b>President's &amp; Voter Service Report</b>	<i>Adele Fasick</i>
<b>11:00</b>	<b>Financial Reports</b> Education Fund Report Treasurer's Report Budget Committee Report	<i>Martha Benioff</i>
<b>11:15</b>	<b>Adoption of 2005-06 Budget</b>	
<b>11:20</b>	<b>Nominations</b> Report from Nominating Committee Nominations from the Floor Election of Officers and Directors	<i>Allyson Washburn, Chair</i>
<b>11:30</b>	<b>Directions from the Membership to the Board</b> Any member may make suggestions to the new board. You may also use this time to voice your opinions about the governance of the League.	
<b>12:00</b>	<b>Adjournment</b>	

Members who wish to continue socializing can meet at **Soluna Lounge Restaurant** at 1865 Post Street. The luncheon menu includes salads, soups, sandwiches, pasta, entree, and desertss with prices ranging from \$8 to \$12. Contact the office by **phone or email at** (415) 989-8683 or [svoter@mindspring.com](mailto:svoter@mindspring.com) if you plan to come to lunch.  
**Please call by Friday, June 10, by 5:00 p.m.**

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## Letter From the President

By: Jennifer Waggoner



*Jenny Waggoner, League President, pictured in Italy 2004.*

At the recent California League Convention, I was struck by what a great 2004-05 the San Francisco League had despite the challenges of multiple elections featuring many candidates and complex ballot measures. Our volunteers and partners provided exceptional education and outreach in the past year, and we received recognition at the convention for our achievements! A number of our partners brought us into new communities and shared valuable expertise. With such success, we attracted new funding sources to help support these collaborations.

I am personally very proud that we provided stipends for interns; hard working students of limited means were able to learn about the League and their communities without financial hardship. Membership breakfasts and collaborative educational events received rave reviews. It is very inspiring to know what a difference we all can make in San Francisco, and that our work touches not only the Bay Area, but also helps shape the state, national, and international community.

Going forward, our League's areas of emphasis have an incredible synergy with those of the Department of Elections, Secretary of State, Bay Area League, California League, and National League. Everyone is focused on making the electoral process fair, accurate, and understandable to the voters! Our partnerships will mature in the next year: we diversify and amplify our work through collaborative events, sharing input in the planning and implementation of programs; and networking to share contacts, audience, and information. Our capacity is increasing due to growth in our infrastructure: our Nominating Committee found many wonderful candidates, potentially increasing the size of our

board, and we anticipate having more off-board chairs, thanks to the dedication of experienced members and new members willing to learn new skills.

Our Program Director, Virginia Grandi, is invaluable! Her responsibilities as a Director will include increased responsibility for setting priorities, program management, fundraising, and acting as a representative at events and meetings. This year will provide League members, partners, donors, and funders with an even greater opportunity to help their community and themselves.

### So what will be the areas of emphasis for the San Francisco League in '05-06?

The new board will hold a retreat this summer to make these decisions. They eagerly encourage your input via email, telephone, letters, or in person at the Annual Meeting this month. The outgoing board recommends maintaining Voter Services as our highest priority and collaborating with the Bay Area League for areas of action. The Board also recommends continuing the charming intimate breakfast events and popular collaborative public issue forums. Unfortunately, Rhodie Branner will be taking a leave of absence from the board; her oversight of the Target Neighborhood portfolio will be missed. We hope to continue this program as a sub-emphasis of all of our Voter Service projects and see if there are opportunities to focus on a particular issue, most likely related to voting rights. The new board will consider the areas of emphasis at other levels of the League. Visit these websites for detail: National: <http://interactive.lwv.org/Issues>; California and Bay Area: [www.lwvbaca.org.lwvba/action.html](http://www.lwvbaca.org.lwvba/action.html)

Please help shape the future of your League! Although I will no longer serve as president, I am thrilled to continue my involvement. The 2004-05 board made my service a pleasure, and I look forward to meeting new board members. I am incredibly proud of our hard work and am inspired to continue. Thank you all for such a wonderful year!

## Membership Renewal

The League will be sending out **membership renewal notices** at the end of June. Please support the League by renewing your membership. You can also go to [www.lwvsf.org](http://www.lwvsf.org) and re-join online. Thank you for your continued support of the League of Women Voters of San Francisco.

## PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2005-2006 FISCAL YEAR

EXPENSES	2005-2006 draft budget	2004-2005 budget	2004-2005 projected
<b>ADVOCACY</b>			
action committee	300.00	300.00	00.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	300.00	300.00	00.00
<b>BOARD AND ADMIN</b>			
annual meeting	0.00	0.00	0.00
board	0.00	0.00	0.00
conventions	0.00	0.00	0.00
development	1,500.00	500.00	0.00
events	1,500.00	1,500.00	81.00
membership	2,250.00	1,000.00	1,170.00
training	150.00	500.00	95.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	5,400.00	3,500.00	1,053.00
<b>EDUCATION ACTIVITIES</b>			
forums (3)	2,500.00	3,500.00	3,493.00
resources and reference	200.00	200.00	174.00
Smart Voter	4,000.00	4,000.00	3,585.00
Target Neighborhood	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
voter training/education	0.00	0.00	182.93
Pros & Cons Publication	9,000.00	9,000.00	11,961.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	16,700.00	17,700.00	19,213.00
<b>FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR LWV</b>			
Bay Area League (\$1)	150.00	200.00	247.00
California League (\$21)	3,000.00	4,000.00	3,458.00
National League (\$22)	3,450.00	4,600.00	3,414.00
	6,600.00	8,800.00	7,119.00
<b>FUND RAISING EVENT</b>			
event planning	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
event costs	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	0.00	5,000.00	0.00
<b>OPERATING COSTS</b>			
bank fees	208.00	200.00	200.00
computer & website support	111.00	500.00	106.00
internet service provider	1,044.00	700.00	1003.00
website	250.00	1,000.00	250.00
equipment	2,500.00	2,500.00	480.00
general supplies	1,471.00	1,200.00	1,414.00
insurance (prop & liab)	2,013.00	900.00	1,452.00
misc	55.00	300.00	40.00

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



	2005- 2006 draft budget	2004-2005 budget	2004-2005 projected
<b>OPERATING COSTS, continued</b>			
postage	1,000.00	500.00	2,171.00
rent	16,869.00	15,000.00	16,220.00
tax prep and audit	2,813.00	2,500.00	2,705.00
telephone	1,985.00	1,000.00	1,909.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>30,319.00</b>	<b>26,300.00</b>	<b>27,950.00</b>

**PAYROLL EXPENSES**

health insurance	2,729.00	2,160.00	2,624.00
payroll service	1,675.00	1,100.00	1,611.00
payroll taxes	3,080.00	5,025.00	3,030.00
salaries	38,500.00	36,036.00	36,036.00
workers comp	300.00	300.00	0.00
other			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46,284.00</b>	<b>44,621.00</b>	<b>43,301.00</b>

**THE VOTER**

postage	0.00	0.00	0.00
printing	0.00	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00

**TOTAL EXPENSE**

105,352	130,521.00	102,225.00
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**INCOME**

membership dues	9,750.00	12,339.00	9254.00
grants (not Ed Fund)	0.00	10,000.00	0.00
interest income	0.00	0.00	16.00
fundraiser	5,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
member contributions	2,000.00	5,000.00	1,209.00
voter services	150.00	500.00	67.00
board contributions	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,133.00
Ed Fund transfer	69,822.00	65,500	69,632

**TOTAL INCOME**

88,722.00	106,000.00	84,401.00
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**Income**

\*Dues income for 2005-2006 is based on 150 members. Dues income for 2004-2005 was based on 200 members.  
 \*Grant income to the Education Fund does not appear in this budget.  
 \*Similarly, the line item for income from the fundraiser is an estimate of general fund income only.

**Expense**

\*Voter Service line items are budgeted on an "as funded" basis. If the funding does not come in, the activity will be cut. If funding is generous, the activity will be expanded. Pros & Cons Guide Guides will be printed based on funding received - if funding is not received, the voter guides will be available online only.  
 \*Items not included in the budget include, \$5K for public

relations consulting, \$10K to print Pros & Cons in *The Chronicle*, \$10K to redesign the website.

\*Financial Support for LWV based on 150 members because the membership year for per member payment is different than our fiscal year.

\*Program Director's salary includes a raise and cost of living adjustment.

**Education Fund**

\*The Ed Fund supports our extensive Voter Service work, but there are costs that cannot be paid out of the Ed Fund. Based on this budget, we need about \$70,000 in Ed Fund income and approximately \$20,000 in LWVSF income in 2005-2006 for this budget, which includes a deficit.

***Guest Speaker for  
Annual Meeting  
Julian Potter, San Francisco  
Public Policy Director***

Ms. Potter brings 15 years experience in strategic planning, resource development, and administration of community and economic development initiatives.

On March 15, 2005, Mayor Newsom announced the appointment of Julian Potter as his new Director of Public Policy.

Ms. Potter began her career in public service working as a Community Liaison in New York City's Lower East Side for a member of the New York City Council. Potter brings over 15 years of experience having worked across all sectors of local, state, and federal government, including as Special Assistant to the President as Liaison to the Gay and Lesbian Community during the Clinton Administration. Most recently, Potter served as Chief Operating Officer for the non-profit American Community Partnerships.

Ms. Potter's federal experience includes serving as a Deputy Assistant Secretary at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and as Chief of Staff for the President's Community Empowerment Board in the Office of then-Vice President Al Gore. Under these positions, she marshaled federal resources to leverage \$4 billion in private sector investment to assist in the creation of 20,000 jobs in 135 Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Communities. In addition, Ms. Potter convened and directed the annual National White House Community Empowerment Conference that gathered hundreds of community, nonprofit, religious, and business leaders to interact with government officials, including former President Clinton and Vice President Gore.

Ms. Potter received her masters degree in public policy from the New School for Social Research in New York City and her undergraduate degree in Sociology/Philosophy from Northern Arizona University. Ms. Potter hails from Carson City, NV, and lives with her partner Mirian Saez.

**Board of Directors  
Slate of Nominees  
2005-2006**

**President**

Jody Sanford

**Co-Vice Presidents**

Ann Lyon Dudley

Adele Fasick

Allyson Washburn

**Treasurer**

Kristin Chu

**Secretary**

TBD

**New Board Members**

Fran Finney, Heather Garrett, Tom O'Donnell, Hector Javier Preciado, Charlene Smith, Winnie Yu

**Continuing Board Members\***

Rhodie Nance Branner, Martha Benioff, Suzanne Stassevitch, Susan Sun

**Retiring Board Members**

Jo Anne Miller, Jennifer Waggoner

**2005 Nominating Committee**

Allyson Washburn (Chair), Charlene Smith, Martha Benioff, Jody Sanford, Tuesday Ray

\*elected in 2004-2005; will complete second year of term

## BIOGRAPHIES OF 2005-2006 BOARD NOMINEES



### Fran Finney

Fran joined the LWVSF in the early 1980s with an interest in working on the League's studies, advocacy, and good government projects. She worked initially on a local LWV study examining noise abatement issues at San Francisco International Airport. Fran has since worked on various studies, helped with the Pros and Cons publication, and served on the LWVSF board as the Vice President of Action. For the past three years, Fran has served as the co-chair of a community church's work on shelter dinners for the homeless.

Fran and her husband have lived in San Francisco for more than 20 years. She is currently working as a management consultant with Kaiser Permanente working on leadership development, team development, change management, and projects related to the professional development of health care leaders. Fran has a BS in Physical Therapy from the University of Kansas and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of San Francisco.



### Heather Garrett

Heather was first introduced to League of Women Voters by her grandmother, an active member in the King County South (WA) League for more than 30 years. Heather joined LWVSF in the spring of 2004, helping plan and coordinate the San Francisco Supervisor Candidate Forums prior to the 2004 election.

After graduating with a BA in East Asian Studies/Business Administration from Western Washington University, Heather lived and worked in Japan for nearly six years. Her professional experience includes positions with Obunsha Publishing in Tokyo, Levi Strauss & Co. in San Francisco, and in the U.S. office of the Japan National Tourist Organization, a governmental division of Japan's Ministry of Infrastructure, Construction.

An active member of the community, Heather currently volunteers with Hands On Bay Area, the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation, and INFORUM/The Commonwealth Club of California. In addition, she sits on the board of the JET Alumni Association of Northern California and runs their high school scholarship program. She has worked on fundraisers for Meals On Wheels, the Asia Society, Pets Are Wonderful Support, and has led volunteer projects for numerous non-profit organizations throughout the Bay Area.



### Tom O'Donnell

Tom O'Donnell joined the LWVSF in 2004, motivated by a desire to utilize his research and writing skills in service to the San Francisco community. He was attracted to the League because of its mission of promoting participatory democracy through non-partisan voter education. Tom immediately became an invaluable volunteer, writing for the Pros and Cons publication, serving in the Speakers Bureau, and supporting Candidate Forums throughout the busy November election season.

Tom and his wife have lived in the Bay Area for eleven years. He is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley with a BA in history.

For three years he has been employed with Goodby, Silverstein & Partners, a major San Francisco advertising firm. This fall Tom will begin pursuing a masters degree in history at San Francisco State University.



### Héctor Javier Preciado

Héctor was born in San Juan de los Lagos, Jalisco, Mexico, and was raised in Boyle Heights, California. He is a graduate of Pomona College where he majored in Sociology and minored in Media Studies.

Héctor is the director of strategic communications for the Greenlining Institute, a multi-ethnic public policy research and advocacy center located in Berkeley. He manages, develops, and oversees communication strategies for educating policy makers, political figures, the media, and the public at large to influence public policy for the benefit of low income and minority communities.

Héctor is a regular political analyst for Telemundo & Univision and has appeared on the local, state, and national newscasts speaking on socio-political issues as they affect the Latino community. He has also served as an analyst during state and national elections. He has contributed to radio and print media, including NPR, La Voz political talk show and the nationally syndicated Opinion Latina radio show. As Greenlining's former Pro-Democracy Fellow, Héctor authored a study that examined the affect that systems of public funding of elections had on women and low income and minority communities. Héctor is one of 13 children and speaks three languages.



### Charlene Smith

Born and raised on a dairy farm in Bridport, Vermont, Charlene moved to San Francisco in 1978 and joined the LWVSF in 1979. Over the years, Charlene served on various committees, including budget, nominating, development, and special events. She also served as membership director, vice president for action, and vice president for organization, and as president (1989-91). From 1993-1998, she served as a member of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of California where she chaired the development committee. In 2004, Charlene chaired the LWVSF nominating committee and represented the organization on the California First Amendment Coalition Assembly Planning Committee. Charlene also serves on the board of directors of the YWCA of San Francisco/Marin and of the Older Women's League of San Francisco.

Charlene received a BA in Psychology from McGill University in Montréal, Quebec, and attended Golden Gate University in San Francisco, completing all course work for the MBA in Arts Administration. She is self-employed as a development consultant for non-profit organizations, specializing in institutional fundraising. In addition to community work, Charlene's passions are her three nephews in Vermont and playing the steel drum.



### Winnie Yu

Winnie has long been an advocate for marginalized and vulnerable populations. At age 18, she was the youngest member of the board of directors of The Women's Foundation in San Francisco. As an advocate for public education, she was invited to speak on the education panel at the second annual San Francisco Mayor's Summit for Women. While in college she worked as a Chinese Bilingual Teacher's Aide with children from low-income immigrant populations at Spring Valley Elementary School.

Currently Winnie, utilizing her language skills, is a community advocate at the Asian Law Caucus, working with attorneys and monolingual immigrant clients on housing and consumer issues that affect the community. She is fluent in English and three dialects of Chinese.

Winnie was born and raised in China until the age of 8 when her family immigrated to the United States. She is the first person in her family to graduate from college. In 2004 she received a degree in Political Economy of Industrial Societies, with Honors and Distinction, at the University of California at Berkeley.



### Allyson Washburn

Allyson joined the LWVSF nearly 20 years ago after moving to San Francisco from Baltimore. She found the League's positions on many of the important issues of the day similar to her own, and saw the organization as a way to gain knowledge of the City and its always interesting political scene. Allyson served on the board for about 10 years, working as local program chair, vice president for program, and president. She also served on the League of Women Voters of California board as social program director. Her daughter, Alyssa Mellott, was LWVSF program manager for a time and also served on the board; her son, Ben Mellott, was a fairly patient supporter of his mother and sister's League activities. Allyson has served on the board of the YWCA of San Francisco/Marin for a number of years and was president of that organization.

Allyson received her Ph.D. in experimental psychology from Johns Hopkins. She has held various research positions in the Department of Psychiatry at UCSF and at the Jewish Home and the Institute on Aging. At present, Allyson is teaching statistics, research methods, and the psychology of older adults at Saybrook Graduate School, where she is also developing a center for study and action in later life. In her spare time, she enjoys figure drawing, reading, seeing foreign and independent films, and traveling with her friends.

## Annual Meeting Proposed Rules of the Day

Debate and comments are to be limited to two minutes per speaker. No person may speak twice until all who wish to speak have had the opportunity to do so. Simplified parliamentary procedures are based on *Roberts Rules of Order*.

*Please arrive early at the Annual Meeting for coffee and light refreshments before our guest speaker begins.*



## Bay Area Leagues Shares its Call to Council

By Gail Schickele

The League of Women Voters Bay Area (LWVBA) Call to Council meeting took place on May 14 in Palo Alto. LWVBA is an inter-League organiza-

tion that works on regional issues on behalf of the 21 Leagues in the nine county Bay Area. Suzanne Stassevitch and I represented the San Francisco League at the meeting.

LWVBA works with regional organizations to ensure that the League has a voice in decision-making. These include the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC); Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG); Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD); Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC); AC Transit; East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD); Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development (BAASD), and the Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC). LWVBA also attends meetings of the Commonwealth Club, the Bay Area Council, and the California Center for Regional Leadership.

Additionally, LWVBA's monthly Inter-League Network (IN) Committee meetings allow local Leagues to share information, recommend actions, and promote positions to the LWVBA board.

At the meeting, monitoring and action reports were given by LWVBA committees. Below is a summary. Additional details may be found at [www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org).

In **Transportation**, LWVBA supported ballot initiatives Regional Measure 2 (March 2004) and AC Transit and BART Funding (Nov. 2004); called for further study on and more mixed uses around the Warm Springs BART Extension; commended MTC's 2030 Plan which has focused on transit-oriented development planning and funding; recommended further study to the High Speed Rail Authority regarding potential routes through the Bay Area,

with special attention to the Altamont Pass; co-sponsored a forum on bus rapid transit with focus on the I-880 corridor; and addressed Transbay Terminal issues.

**Land Use and Regional Planning** was the focus of "Bay Area League Day" in January. This year the committee offered comments U.C. Berkeley on their long range development plan and environmental report; endorsed Measure CC, the East Bay Regional Park District parcel tax in Zone 1; monitored a proposal of the Koi Nation to build a casino near the Oakland airport; and enlisted local Leagues to talk to their planning directors regarding land uses near transit stations.

The **Environment** committee held a "Know Your Bay Area Day" forum on desalination; urged the governor to sign SB 1568 to improve notification and enforcement of BCDC regulations; commended Cal-EPA for change of regulatory agency oversight from Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to the Department of Toxic Substances Control for Richmond's Campus Bay Cleanup; supported LWVBA's letter to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission regarding Hetch Hetchy improvements and the need for water reuse, conservation and fee schedules to encourage conservation and support for lower income users; monitored BCDC agendas; represented LWVBA at ABAG CALFED Task Force meetings; and monitored BAASD efforts to meet ozone standards and new regulations for refinery flares.

For 35 years the **Bay Area Monitor Project** (BAMP) has conducted a regional information and education program targeted to local decision makers. The bi-monthly MONITOR has become a respected, recognized source on regional issues and developments. Its public agency supporters, who provide funding through annual contracts and grants, value the objectivity and reliability of the bulletin's reporting. This year BAMP was moved under the LWVBA Education Fund, making it eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions from individual League members, interested readers, and non-agency groups. The MONITOR is online at [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org).

## Interview with Assemblyman Mark Leno

January 21, 2005



*Susan Sun and Mark Leno at the interview. Picture by Virginia Grandi.*

As part of the legislative interviews with the League of Women Voters of California, the San Francisco League interviewed Assemblyman Mark Leno with Board member Susan Sun in his district office to talk about some of the current themes in politics.

### **1. What is it like working with Governor Schwarzenegger and Republicans in Sacramento?**

Assemblyman Leno replied that he was astonished at the severity of partisanship in Sacramento. Coming from San Francisco, he jokingly commented that he never really had to work with fellow Republicans before. However, he enjoys working across the aisle and feels the best challenge is forging alliances to show that making change is possible. He added, "To the Governor's credit, he has signed many of my bills that Governor Davis would not have. He is complex and a mixed bag. But, I will credit him where credit is due."

### **2. How do you think California will balance revenue and expenses in the 2005-2006 budget? The Governor has stated that he will not increase taxes. How can we bring the state's spending and revenue into balance without increasing taxes?**

Assemblyman Leno feels that the budget cuts the Governor has proposed will impact Californians who can least afford it and who rely on much-needed social services. He is especially concerned about education budget cuts - stating his belief that low test scores reflect the decrease in services and the increase in teacher/student ratios and class sizes.

Assemblyman Leno replied, "Governor Schwarzenegger has claimed California is in a current budget crisis because legislators are 'feeding the beast' too much. The Governor's solution is to starve the beast by making severe cuts and borrowing. The cuts do serious damage to our state's basic infrastructure. The borrowing proposals are growing to over 60% of his solution to the shortfall, but the cost of our debt service will dramatically increase."

Assemblyman Leno stated his belief that he does not see much leadership from Republicans in resolving the budget gap of close to \$9.1 billion. He feels that to address the budget crisis, "the honest way is the balanced approach - through a combination of taxes and cuts. However, Republicans are reluctant to talk about revenue enhancement." He says, "You have to bring expenditures and revenues into balance. If you can't talk about increasing revenue, half the equation is gone. The Governor says legislators have a spending problem. But he's got a revenue problem."

Assemblyman Leno feels that California should also focus on better collection of existing tax revenues owed the state. He was supportive of Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, who has identified tens of billions of federal dollars owed to California. To date, the Governor has not yet responded to these options.

### **3. You have proposed a solution to the Governor's rollback of the Vehicle License Fee that might help decrease the budget gap. What is it?**

Assemblyman Leno replied, "On his first day in office, Governor Schwarzenegger rescinded the Vehicle License Fee (VLF), through which the state would have earned approximately \$4 billion. Every year that we don't have a VLF, we lose \$4 billion that could help close the budget gap. Even if we were to fire every state employee (teachers, fire firefighters, California Highway Patrol), we wouldn't be able to close the budget deficit." A proposal Assemblyman Leno has put forward in the legislature (AB79) would allow San Franciscans to decide for themselves, on the ballot, whether or not to reinstate the fee to support city services.

*This article continues on page 10.*

*Legislative Interview with Mark Leno, continued from page 9.*

#### **4. What should the legislature do to ensure that all Californians have access to healthcare?**

Assemblyman Leno replied, "I was a co-author of SB921, Senator Sheila Kuehl's 'Healthcare for All Californians Act,' and I was happy to learn that the League of Women Voters supported SB921. He said, "There are two sides to the healthcare issue - from a fiscal point of view, someone has to pay; from a human point of view, people are suffering. Things are getting worse, not better. Republicans believe that healthcare is not a human right and that everyone is on their own - that healthcare is a privilege for those who can afford it." Assemblyman Leno believes that universal healthcare is "an idea whose time has come."

#### **5. Do you think that reform of any of the following is desirable?**

**Redistricting:** Assemblyman Leno, who currently serves on the Assembly Committee on Elections and Redistricting, does not support the Governor's proposals for redistricting. He says "Any attempt is a partisan ploy. The federal government says the districts must be redrawn every 10 years. I won't endorse any plan that takes effect before 2010." He feels that the proposal is being used by the Governor as a diversionary tactic. "The Governor doesn't want people to focus on how he is borrowing, taking from the poorest and the elderly and listening to the special interests."

**Term Limits:** Assemblyman Leno says, "The full impact of term limits is happening now with some of our senior Senators retiring out of the system. Because Senate districts encompass more than one Assembly district, we now have some of the sitting members of the Assembly competing for the same Senate seat. You see more Assemblymembers racing to get to the Senate seat and more members coming in who are fresh and new. This means more campaigns, more fundraising." He feels Californians want and deserve experience in their elected officials. Currently, Assemblymembers and Senators can serve a total of 6 years and 8 years, respectively. Assemblyman Leno suggested a possible solution of allowing a member to serve in either the Senate or the Assembly in any combination - so long as the total number of years served does not exceed 12.

#### **6. What are the major issues that the legislature must deal with in 2005? What are your personal priorities?**

Assemblyman Leno replied, "Many of my issues and priorities are the same as when I was on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors - civil rights, affordable housing, affordable healthcare, renewable energy, and education." Assemblyman Leno stated that he is very excited about the 20 bills he is introducing this year and highlighted a few:

1. (AB 19) **The Religious Freedom and Civil Marriage Protection Act** would allow any two adults to obtain a marriage license in California and clarify that no religious entity or organization would be required to perform or solemnify any union contrary to that religion's beliefs.
2. (AB 781) This bill would reform the **Ellis Act** to preserve affordable housing and protect renters from eviction. Investors who buy an apartment building with the intent to evict its tenants and remove it from the rental market will be required to have owned the property for at least 5 years. This would prevent speculative buying of buildings with the intention of evicting everyone and selling off individual units
3. (AB50) This bill proposes to amend the **three strikes law** and narrow the population for whom the third strike sentence of 25 years to life would apply.
4. (AB1694) This bill would prevent **identity theft** by requiring credit reporting agencies to inform consumers when a new account is opened and appears on their credit report.

*This article is continued on page 11.*

Legislative interview article continued from page 10.

**7. Before joining the California State Assembly, you served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. How does it differ? How is it the same?**

Assemblyman Leno replied that he was pleased to learn that as steep as the learning curve was, that he feels very much at home in the assembly. He feels comfortable specifically because of the experience he gained on the Board of Supervisors. The jobs, though on a local level vs. state level, are very similar. He loves legislative work and policy work. As he described it, it's about selling ideas - knowing how to work with community groups, staff, and advisory groups to craft issues. He cherishes the opportunity and feels there is not a day to waste.

For information about Assemblyman Mark Leno, <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a13/>.

## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA CONVENTION PHOTOS

The California League Convention 2005 in Garden Grove was themed **"It's a New World."** It was held at the Crowne Plaza Anaheim Resort May 19-22.



(l to r) LWV-CA President Jackie Jacobberger, LWVSF President Jennifer Waggoner, Board Member for LWV-US Sarah Diefendorf, LWV-CA Development Chair Nikki Harris, LWV-CA Executive Director Jill Kaiser Newcom, and Voter Service Chair, LWV-CA Tuesday Ray. Note that Sarah Diefendorf and Tuesday Ray are past Presidents of the LWVSF.



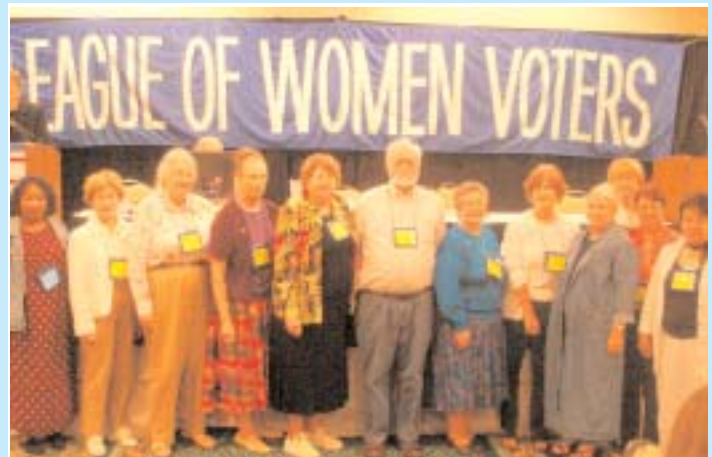
State Senator Sheila Kuehl speaks to the convention on the topic of Universal Health Care and a single payer method for California.



Jill Kaiser Newcom, Robbie Davis, California Secretary of State Bruce McPherson and Smartvoter.org director Trudell Een at the banquet Saturday 05/21/05 at the State Convention.



Program Director Virginia Grandi (left) and LWVSF President Jennifer Waggoner proudly display the Voter Service Award for a Large League from the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund during the convention.



Members of the California League of Women Voters Board of Directors at the Convention. Members include Tuesday Ray, Jackie Jacobberger, Donna Chipps, Wendy Phillips, Kate Quick, Robbie Davis, Chris Carson, Jack Sullivan, Beverly King, Charolette Fox, Joan Lancaster, Marion Taylor, Tracy Pepper, and Jackie Stone.

<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Saturday, June 11</b>
<b>Membership Breakfast</b>	<b>Saturday, July 9th, details TBA</b>
<b>Membership Renewal Campaign</b>	<b>Begins in June/July</b>
<b>Voter Service Trainings</b>	<b>August-October, dates coming soon</b>
<b>Moderator Training for Pro/Con Discussions</b>	<b>September 13th, 5-8 pm, 1720 Market</b>
<b>Taping of Pro/Con Discussions</b>	<b>September 17th, 9am-7pm, 1720 Market</b>
<b>Know your Bay Area Day, LWV-Bay Area</b>	<b>September 24th</b>

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