



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SAN FRANCISCO THE VOTER

Spring 2008

Election Day is Tuesday, June 3, 2008



Letter from President Karen Clopton

In time for the 2008 presidential election year, the League of Women Voters of San Francisco revived its popular "Women Who Could Be President" award, honoring exceptional women who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and service in the community. Five honorees were celebrated at a gala reception, chaired by Chandra Friese and emceed by past honoree Cheryl Jennings of KGO-TV. The event was held on February 12 at San Francisco's historic City Club and attended by over 250 League supporters, including several elected officials including State Senator Carol Migden and District Attorney Kamala Harris. The program included beautiful music featuring Bay Area soprano, Liz King. The date fell one week after California's presidential primary, on President Lincoln's birthday, and on the League of Women Voters' 88th birthday.

This award champions women working in all aspects of civic life who have the will, drive, and vision to create better communities. It's about celebrating the unique wisdom and perspective that women bring to the debate.

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco selected five honorees for 2008:

Elmy Bermejo, Deputy Undersecretary for Consumer Affairs and Chair of the California Women's Foundation.

Kimberly Brandon, President, San Francisco Port Commission and Senior VP with Morgan Stanley

(continued on Page 2)

SAVE THE DATE ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 7

9:30 am to 12 noon

Mechanics' Institute

**57 Post Street, San Francisco
(near Montgomery BART/
MUNI station)**

**RSVP lwvsf@lwvsf.org or 415-
989-8683**

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(President's letter continued)

Clothilde Hewlett, Partner, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Preston Gates Ellis

Adrienne Pon, newly appointed Director of the San Francisco Mayor's Office for Community Development and former CEO of Zeum.

Dr. Elisa Stephens, President, Academy of Art University

Funds raised by the gala reception benefit the League's voter education programs and other worthy services. The event's sponsors included Wells Fargo Bank, Comerica Bank, Guaranty Bank, AT&T, PG&E, Southwest Airlines, the San Francisco Giants, and Morgan Stanley, raising almost \$100,000 for the League's important voter education work. Complete details about the reception and honorees, including biographies, are available at the League's website at www.lwvsf.org.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who took part in the League of Women Voters "Women Who Could Be President" Awards Gala Reception. Events like the Gala are possible thanks to your hard work and participation in the League. Thank you so much for being a member of our team!

Looking forward, I hope that you will join us at our **Annual Meeting** on Saturday, June 7, 9:30 am to noon at the Mechanics' Institute. We will be discussing our initiatives for the upcoming year as well as voting for our Board of Directors. As always, new and prospective members are welcome to attend!

We are fast approaching the California State Primary Election. Vote on **Tuesday, June 3** for seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, the State Senate, the State Assembly, on Propositions 98 and 99, and Propositions A-H (our local positions are in the insert in this issue of the Voter). For more information on the upcoming election, please visit www.sfvotes.org.

This year, particularly the election season, will be a busy time for the League. Your continued support and generosity bring the League's work to life! I hope to see you all at our various forums and events this year because together we can inform, educate, and make a difference in our community.



**ONLINE ELECTION
INFO**
www.sfvotes.org



Remembering Kay Blalock

1914 – 2008

Kathryn (Kay) Stewart Blalock, president of the San Francisco League of Women Voters from 1971-1973, died in her San Francisco home on January 18 after a brief illness. She was 94.

A native of Aberdeen, WA, Kay moved with her husband, Roy Blalock, to San Francisco in early 1960s and quickly became active in the League as a way to meet people and learn about her new hometown. However, her initial introduction to the LWV occurred when she was just 13 and on a year-long, cross-country trip with her grandmother. In New York City they had lunch with a former college roommate of her grandmother's, Carrie Chapman Catt, who had been active in the suffragette movement and, later, a founder of the League. At the time the teenage Kay met her, Mrs. Catt was president of the national League of Women Voters.

Today, many League members, past and present, remember Kay as a dedicated and hardworking League activist. As president she spent three full days a week in the League office. She took the lead in League efforts to reform the City Charter, simplify the ballot and study the Civil Service Commission. For two years she went to the Planning Commission every week and then to Board of Supervisors' meetings in the observer program.

Kay's opinion of the city government back in 1971 was quoted in the Examiner: "The structure of the San Francisco City government is a mess. It's hard to say where we have achieved success in our efforts [to reform the Charter] but we keep working away at problems."

Those who worked with her in the League also recall a woman with great organizational skills who inspired others with her enthusiasm and great sense of humor. "She was very level headed and cut to the chase in a very thoughtful, gracious way," one former colleague recalls. "She was a smart and lovely lady in every way." Another said, "Kay believed anything was possible if good people worked together."

After her term as LWVSF president, Kay was elected executive vice president of the state League, then headquartered in San Francisco.

Kay had many interests in addition to the League of Women Voters. She was a knowledgeable jazz enthusiast who once had her own jazz and blues show when she lived in Seattle. To the end of her life she enjoyed listening to her extensive collection of jazz albums. She was an ardent bridge player and gardener and had volunteered at several San Francisco museums as well as the Strybing Arboretum. She is survived by her three children, a granddaughter, and two sisters.

When asked by a reporter in 1965, "why belong to the League of Women Voters?" Kay's response, as usual, went to the heart of the matter: "Because we're dealing with things that are real." Happily, some things do remain the same over time.

The Voter wishes to thank League members Cecile Michael, JoAnn Franklin Knox and Mary Hilton and Kay Blalock's daughters Susan Nelson and Allison Umphrey for sharing their memories of Kay with us.

Agenda for Annual Meeting—Saturday, June 7

9:30 am Breakfast

10:15 am Keynote Speaker

11 am Business Meeting

RSVP: (415) 989-8683 / lwvsf@lwvsf.org

At the business meeting members will adopt the budget for the next fiscal year and elect board members.

Business Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Rules of the Day
- Introduction of Timekeeper
- Approval of 2007 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Appointment of Reading Committee for 2008 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Discussion and Adoption of FY 08-09 Budget
- Discussion of Program for 2008-2009
- Proposed Action on Studies to be done
- Committee Reports
- Report of Nominating Committee and Election of Officers
- Directions from the Membership to the Board

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.

**PROPOSED SLATE FOR
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
SAN FRANCISCO BOARD FY 08-09**

Executive Committee

Karen Valentia Clopton, President

Adele Fasick, Vice President - Communications Co-Chair

Suzanne Stassevitch, Vice President - Voters Service Chair

Stina Skewes-Cox, Vice President - Development Chair

Kristin Chu, Treasurer

Jody Sanford, Immediate Past President, Communications Co-Chair

Megan Doyle Corcoran, Secretary

Officers

Maxine Anderson

Marilyn Campbell

Stephanie Green Crump (see bio)

Ann Lyon Dudley

Fran Finney

Chandra Friese

Suzanne Gautier

Kimberly Gupta

Sacha Ielmorini (see bio)

Patricia McGovern

Emanuel Pleitez

Jolinda Sim (see bio)

Lilia Tamm (see bio)

Allyson Washburn

Thanks to the Nominating Committee Members!

Marjorie Bailey, Gail Morthole, Marilyn Campbell, Stina Skewes-Cox, Patricia McGovern

PROPOSED NEW BOARD MEMBER BIOGRAPHIES



Sacha Ielmorini

Sacha Ielmorini was born and raised in the Sonoma county countryside. After earning her BA in mathematics at Humboldt State University, she left the cow fields of her youth for

San Francisco where her city life began. She is active in the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition and can regularly be seen biking to work, client appointments, and social engagements. As part of the San Francisco Voting Integrity Project she works to ensure our votes are counted as each voter intended. In the LWVSF, Sacha participates in the Speaker's Bureau, Candidate Forums, and the Pro/Con Discussion tapings. It's important to Sacha to educate voters so they can vote in line with their values. She's also passionate about sustainability and the integrity of our democracy.



Jolinda Sim

Jolinda is a native of Phoenix, Arizona and has lived in the Bay Area since 1968. She holds a B.A. in Education and an M.B.A. from Arizona State University. Her professional

background includes ten years as a public school teacher. She is presently co-owner of a family business which buys and sells construction, mining, and material handling equipment. As a former LWVSF Board Member, she has served as Chair for Candidate Forums and also Community Election Monitoring. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross Bay Area Chapter, having acted as Chair of Volunteer Resources and Chair of Service Delivery, and is also a national disaster response volunteer in the activities of disaster assessment and government liaison for the Red Cross. Jolinda resides in San Francisco with her husband, and is the mother of one grown daughter.



Lilia Tamm

Lilia Tamm has spent her career working to build people power for social change. At the moment, most of her time is spent at the Dewey Square Group, consulting on the LWV-sponsored redistricting initiative. Her

most awesome recent job was running the Greenlining Institute's College Affordability Act of 2008 field campaign on 30 campuses around California. Previously, she did her level best as a senior field director for a variety of groups including MoveOn.org, Grassroots Campaigns, and Americans Against Escalation in Iraq, managing hundreds of staff organizers and thousands of volunteers. Prior to that she studied Communications at the University of Pennsylvania and made a ruckus for student and teacher rights on the Berkeley High School campus. Lilia plans to return to school to study business and public policy.

Stephanie Green Crump

Stephanie Green Crump is a marketing professional in telecommunications and consulting service companies such as AT&T, CellularOne Ameritech, and KPMG. She excels in marketing, new product development, strategy, and new business development. Stephanie has been the Director of Marketing and Business Development for TCB-Café Publishing and Media/TasteTV.com since 2000. She received her BA in economics and psychology from Swarthmore College and went on to earn her MBA in Marketing and International Business from Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

LWVSF proposed Budget for 2008-09
LWVSF 501(c)(3) Education Fund

<i>Estimated 501c3 Reserves on 7/1/2008</i>	85,000
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Initial Reserves	85,000
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<i>San Francisco Foundation</i>	25,000
<i>Follis Foundation, R. Gwin</i>	25,000
<i>Gold Foundation, David B</i>	20,000
<u><i>Unspecified</i></u>	<u>35,000</u>
Potential Grants	105,000

<i>Year End Appeal</i>	5,000
<i>Women Who Could Be President</i>	50,000
<u><i>Major Donor or Sponsor</i></u>	<u>-</u>
Fundraising	55,000

Interest and Dividend	5,000
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Unrealized Gain	-
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Total Revenue	165,000
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Bank Service Charges	-
Transfers to LWVSF 501c4	165,000
Unrealized Loss	-

Total Expense	165,000
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Ending Reserves	85,000
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2008-09 Draft Budget 501c4 LWVSF General Fund	Develop-	General	Advocacy	Member	Candidate	Pro/Con	Televised
	ment	and Admin		ship	Forums	Guide	Programming
					Voter Services		
Revenue							
4010 — Ed Fund Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4030 — Fundraising	19,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
4050 — Interest and Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 5000 — Earned Revenue	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 5200 — Membership Dues	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue (excluding In-kind)	19,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
Expense							
6390 — Bank Service Charges	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
7020 — Contributions to Other LWV	-	-	-	7,000	-	-	-
Total 7200 — Salaries and Related...	5,355	6,961	1,071	5,355	3,748	5,355	8,032
Total 7500 — Professional Fees	7,500	2,000	-	-	500	500	500
8110 — Supplies	250	500	350	350	600	600	500
Total 8130 — Communications	156	203	31	156	109	156	234
Total 8140 — Postage and Delivery	150	130	70	250	70	850	150
8150 — Mailing Services / Distrib...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8160 — Translation & Graphic Design	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-
8170 — Printing, Reproduction & Inser- tion	-	-	-	556	-	12,500	-
8180 — Books & Subscriptions	-	100	-	-	-	-	-
8190 - Paid Advertising	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 8200 — Facility & Equipment	1,808	2,550	362	2,108	3,265	1,808	2,711
Total 8300 — Travel, Meetings & C...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 8520 — Insurance (not worker's comp)	-	1,250	-	-	-	-	-
8530 — Dues and Membership w/Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
8999 — Other Expense	7,500	-	-	3,750	-	-	-
<i>5001 — Paid Ballot Arguments, Etc.</i>	-	-	730	-	-	-	-
<i>9000 — Advocacy - Other</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total 9000 — Advocacy	-	-	730	-	-	-	-
Total Expense (excluding In-kind)	22,718	13,794	2,614	19,524	8,293	31,768	12,127
Indirect Expense (excluding In- kind) Fundraising					976.57	3,741.06	1,428.14
Indirect Expense (excluding In- kind) G&A					592.94	2,271.45	867.12
TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (including indirect)					9,862	37,781	14,423

Smart Voter	Speaker's Bureau	Vote By Mail	Election Monitoring	Educational Studies	Educational Forum	SPLIT 80% 501c3		Unclassified	TOTAL
						Web	Voter		
Voter Services									
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	165,000	165,000
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19,000
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	250	-	250	-	-	-	-	-	500
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16,875	16,875
-	250	-	250	-	-	-	-	181,875	201,375
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,000
1,606	1,071	3,213	535	3,213	5,355	535	2,142	-	53,548
-	-	500	-	-	1,000	6,000	-	2,500	21,000
400	400	-	350	350	350	-	-	2,500	7,500
47	31	94	16	94	156	2,516	62	-	4,060
30	20	60	10	60	100	10	840	-	2,800
-	-	7,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,500
-	-	1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	11,000
-	-	5,000	-	-	2,000	-	800	-	20,856
-	-	-	-	-	200	-	-	-	300
-	-	10,000	-	-	2,500	-	-	-	12,500
542	362	1,085	181	1,085	3,808	181	723	-	22,575
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,900	2,900
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,250
-	-	-	-	-	300	-	-	-	300
-	-	-	-	-	3,750	-	-	-	15,000
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	730
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	730
4,625	1,884	28,451	1,092	4,801	19,518	9,242	4,567	7,900	192,919
544.70	221.82	3,350.41	128.57	565.37	2,298.49	1,088.33	537.85	930.31	
330.72	134.68	2,034.26	78.07	343.27	1,395.57	660.79	326.57	564.85	
5,501	2,240	33,836	1,298	5,710	23,212	10,991	5,432	9,395	

LWVSF Positions on San Francisco Ballot Propositions - June 3 Election

Proposition A: San Francisco Unified School District Quality Teach and Education Act of 2008 (Special tax of real property; 2/3 vote needed)

The Question: Should SF be authorized to levy a special tax of \$198 per year per parcel of taxable real property beginning July 1, 2008?

- The Board of Education of the SF Unified School District believes the tax is necessary to maintain quality education for all students in the district because funding from the State of California and Federal Government has been inadequate. California’s per pupil spending is ranked 46th nationwide and 13 cities in the state pay teachers more.
- The tax would be used to raise teacher’s salaries, provide retention bonuses, provide additional compensation to teachers working at schools with high teach turnover and hard-to-fill positions, provide Master Teacher program, expand the Peer Assistance and Review program, and give
- The tax will be collected by the SF Office of Treasurer and Tax Collector. Individuals 65 and older may be exempt pursuant to the Senior Citizens Exemption. Expires June, 2028.

Relevant Positions:

LWVSF: *Financing San Francisco Government:*

- Support measures that promote effective and equitable methods of paying for city services.
- Increase taxes and fees if necessary to retain the current level of services

LWVSF: *Education*

- Support public school system that meets the educational needs of all students and that the

Board of Education should see that necessary funds are obtained to carry out this plan.

LWV California: *State and Local Finances*

- Support measure to ensure revenues sufficient and flexible to meet changing needs of State and Local government services
- Promotes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden and promotes a progressive tax structure.
- Support making provisions for persons unable to pay fees or charges levied.

LWVSF Recommends: Neutral

Proposition B: Retiree Health and Pension Benefits (Charter Amendment)

The Question: Should the Charter be changed to increase the years of service required for new City employees and certain employees of the School District, the Superior Court and the Community College District to qualify for employer-funded retiree health benefits?

Relevant Positions: None

LWVSF Recommends: No position

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LWVSF Positions on San Francisco Ballot Propositions (Continued)

Proposition C: Forfeiture of Retirement Benefits for Conviction of a Crime involving Moral Turpitude (Charter Amendment)

The Question: Should the Charter be amended to prohibit San Francisco Employees' Retirement System members who are convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude in connection with their employment from receiving any retirement benefits funded with employer contributions?

Relevant Positions: None

LWVSF Recommends: No position

Proposition D: Diversity on City Boards and Commissions (Charter Amendment)

The Charter requires that City boards and commissions be broadly representative of the communities of interest, neighborhoods, and the diversity in ethnicity, race, age and sexual orientation of the City and County and have representation of both sexes. The Charter does not require the City to collect data on the diversity of members serving on City boards and commissions.

The Question: Should the Charter be amended to make it official City policy that the membership of City boards and commissions reflect the interests and contributions of both men and women of all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, and types of disabilities? And, should the Commission on the Status of Women be required to analyze, report, and track the diversity of appointments to City boards and commissions every two years?

Relevant Positions:

LWVSF: *Boards and Commissions*

Support a system of boards and commissions which effectively serves the public

Objective 2. Effectiveness should be judged by the following criteria:

- a. provides a variety of viewpoints

Objective 3. Selection of commissioners should be based on the following criteria:

- d. represents the diversity of the community

LWVSF Recommends: Support

Proposition E: Appointments to the Public Utilities Commission (Charter Amendment)

The Question: Should the City Charter be amended to change the manner in which PUC Commissions members are chosen and appointed?

- Six (6) members of the Board of Supervisors would have to approve each of the Mayor's appointments before they are seated;
- New members of the commission would need expertise/experience in one of the following areas: environmental policy & justice issues; ratepayer or consumer advocacy' project finance; water systems, power systems or public utility management;
- The entire Commission would turn over on 8/1/08.

Relevant Positions:

LWVSF: *Executive Branch:*

- Support Measures to increase effectiveness and accountability of administration. Retain the authority that now lies in the Mayor's position.

LWVSF: *Boards and Commissions:*

- Support a system which effectively serves the public.
- Objective 3b states that the selection of commissioners should be based on proven ability in a field related to the commission.

LWVSF Recommends: Oppose

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LWVSF Positions on San Francisco Ballot Propositions (Continued)

Proposition F: Affordable Housing Requirement for the Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard Mixed-Use Development Project (Ordinance)

The Question: Should it be City policy that any mixed-use development plan the City approves in Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard include these requirements: 50% of all new housing units developed in the area be affordable, preferences for the rental or purchase of new affordable housing be given to families of low and moderate income, and, if Alice Griffith housing is replaced, units are replaced on a one-to-one basis? Should the City be prohibited from selling, conveying or leasing any City-owned land at Candlestick Point unless the Board of Supervisors finds that the mixed-use development plan for this area incorporates these policies? Should the following be repealed: Proposition D, which voters passed in June 1997 to allow the City to issue lease revenue bonds of up to \$100,000,000 for a stadium development at Candlestick Point, and Proposition F, also passed in June 1997 to change City zoning to allow a stadium and related shopping/entertainment center to be built?

Relevant Positions:

LWVUS: *Meeting Basic Human Needs*; criteria for evaluating policies to “provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family” (*Impact on Issues, 2004-2006*, p. 73)

LWVC: *Housing*

Support action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians

LWVSF: *Housing*

Support measures that provide for the needs of low, moderate, and middle income groups

LWVSF Recommends: Neutral

Proposition G: Mixed-Use Project for Candlestick and the Shipyard (Ordinance)

Proposition G would make it City policy to encourage, subject to public input and the environmental review process, the timely development of Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard with a mixed-use project consistent with these objectives:

- producing tangible community benefits for the Bayview and the City;
- reconnecting the Hunters Point Shipyard and Candlestick Point with the Bayview and protecting the Bayview's character for existing residents;
- producing substantial new housing in a mix of rental and for-sale units, both affordable and market-rate, and encouraging the rebuilding of the Alice Griffith Housing Development;
- incorporating environmental sustainability;
- encouraging the 49ers to remain in San Francisco by providing a new stadium site and supporting infrastructure; and
- requiring the project to be financially sound, with or without a new stadium.

The Question: Should it be City policy to encourage timely development of a mixed-use project in the Bayview on Candlestick Point and Hunters Point Shipyard? Should the City be authorized to transfer park land in Candlestick Point for non-recreational use if the land is replaced with new public parks or open spaces of at least equal size and the transfer meets the measure's objectives?

Relevant Positions:

LWVUS: *Meeting Basic Human Needs*; criteria for evaluating policies to “provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family” (*Impact on Issues, 2004-2006*, p. 73)

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LWVSF Positions on San Francisco Ballot Propositions (Continued)

(Proposition G continued)

LWVC: *Housing*

Support action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians

LWVSF: *Housing*

Support measures that provide for the needs of low, moderate, and middle income groups

LWVSF Recommends: Support

Proposition H: Prohibiting Contributions from City Contractors (Ordinance)

The Question: Should City law be changed to make it unlawful for City elected officials, candidates, or political committees they control to solicit or accept campaign contributions from those contractors who are prohibited from making donations under existing law?

Relevant Positions:

LWVUS: *Campaign Finance*

Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

LWVSF Recommends: Support

LWV California Recommendations on California Propositions

June 3, 2008 Statewide Primary Election



NO ON PROPOSITION 98 -- Deceptive Measure Would Abolish Rent Control and Harm Environmental Protection

Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but Proposition 98 is a radical proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would eliminate rent control and other renter protection laws; that is why wealthy apartment and mobile home park owners have contributed most of the money to qualify Proposition 98 for the ballot. In addition, Proposition 98 contains language that would make it difficult to protect the environment and regulate land use, growth and development. This hidden agenda would threaten water quality, hurt the environment, and thwart regulations that protect our neighborhoods.



YES ON PROPOSITION 99 -- Homeowners Protection Act

This measure is a real eminent domain reform measure that will protect homeowners, without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Proposition 98. Proposition 99 will prohibit the government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to another private party. It is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, business, labor, cities, counties and environmentalists..

IMMIGRATION STUDY RESULTS

During the second week of January our local league held two meetings with the intent of arriving at consensus on various immigration issues. Leagues across the nation held similar meetings in order to contribute to the formation of the LWVUS's position.

Approximately forty members attended the meetings to offer their views on the issues. In addition to these League members, many non-members, including San Francisco Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, came to observe the process.

There were some opposing views on the immigration issues, but members agreed on a significant number of topics as being high priority. Here is a recap of those issues.

Considering what aspects federal law should take into account, the following were top priority:

- family reunification;
- economic, business and service employment needs;
- humanitarian crisis/political persecution.

Regarding how unauthorized immigrants in the US should be treated, the allowance to earn legal status by paying taxes, learning English, studying civics, and the like was considered important by members.

A timely means for immigration was deemed very important for all immigrating persons, including immediate family members, those filling US labor voids, international students, and those being persecuted.

Many enforcement issues related to managing unauthorized persons were discussed. Among those considered important was verification documents such as green cards and work permits with secure identifiers, although many in attendance expressed concern about privacy and the use of biometrics. Also of importance were the development of a worker program that would allow seasonal immigrants to enter and exit the US as labor demand waxed and waned, improvement of technology to increase the flow of information between federal agencies as well as to create more accessible employee visa status information for employers, and more effective tracking of persons with non-immigrant visas until they leave the country.

Two additional issues were also of general consensus at the meetings. The first was coordination of federal immigration law with US foreign policy to proactively help improve economies, education and job opportunities, and living conditions of nations with large emigrating populations. The other was that the law should take into account disproportionate costs to local governments and states with greater numbers of immigrants in contrast with long-term federal financial benefits.

The national League has now collected all local League's consensus meeting results. Once that is done, the League will use its position to impact US immigration policy.

The Immigration Study Consensus Committee is appreciative of all who participated in the consensus meetings. It is with great anticipation that we to wait to hear how our views will influence the National League's official stance on immigration.

Update: You can find the proposed national League policy on immigration at <http://www.lwv.org> under Projects. The proposal will be brought to the membership at the national convention in June.

Calendar of Events

Membership Gathering – June Election Preview**Thursday, May 8, 6 to 8 pm**

San Francisco (call for location)

Join us to learn about issues on the ballot in the June primary election.

RSVP to (415) 989-8683 or lwvsf@lwvsf.org.**Wrestling with the Angel of Democracy: On Being an American Citizen Meet the Author: Susan Griffin****Thursday May 14, 6 to 8 pm**

Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street in San Francisco

Susan Griffin charts the origins of our democratic ideals and examines the actions we need to take to sustain them.

Reservations: (415) 393-0100 or rsvp@milibrary.org.**Extraordinary Voices, Extraordinary Change Speaker Series****Featuring: Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, Former President of Latvia****Wednesday, May 14, Reception 5 to 6 pm; Program 6 to 7:30pm**

Presented by the International Museum of Women

Omni Hotel, 500 California Street, San Francisco

Both tough and compassionate, the former President of Latvia, Dr. Vaira Vike-Freiberga, has left a deep mark on Latvian and world politics.

Tickets: www.imow.org/calendar or contact events@imow.org or (415) 487-6447.**California Leadership Council 2008 – “Bridge to the Future”****Saturday May 17 - Sunday, May 18**

Holiday Inn – Capitol Plaza, 300 J Street, Sacramento

Reception: Friday, May 16 at LWVC Office, 801 12th Street, Ste 220, Sacramento

For more details go to www.lwvc.org and click on Leadership Council 2008.**LWV Bay Area Convention****Saturday, May 31, 9:30 am 12:30**

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 150 E. San Fernando St. at Fourth Street, San Jose

For more information, visit www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org/calendar.html.**"Money in Politics" Forum/Town Hall Meeting****Sunday, June 1, 3-6 pm: in the San Francisco Main Library**

This gathering will be the first public event focused around the effort to convert SF's matching fund system to a full public funding system. The League is a co-sponsor with the California Clean Money Campaign and Common Cause. Moderator will be Julie Ragan, Executive Director of the CCMC (and a Board Member of the California League of Women Voters).

League of Women Voters of San Francisco Annual Meeting**Saturday, June 7, Time 9:30 (breakfast) 10:15-12:00 Meeting**

Mechanics' Institute, 57 Post Street in San Francisco

RSVP to (415) 989-8683 or lwvsf@lwvsf.org.**League of Women Voters National Convention 2008 - “Reaching New Heights Together”****June 13 – 17, Portland Ore**For more details at www.lwv.org**Women Power and Politics SPECIAL EVENT – Free Film Festival****Saturday, June 14, 11:00 to 5:00**

Koret Auditorium at the Main Branch of the SF Public Library

For more information see www.imow.org

Who May Register to Vote

You may register to vote if you meet the following criteria:

- You are a United States citizen
- You are a resident of California
- You are at least 18 years of age (or will be by the date of the next election)
- You are not in prison or on parole for conviction of a felony
- You have not been judged by a court to be mentally incompetent to register and vote

California Registration Deadlines

In order to be eligible to vote in the statewide election on:	Your Registration must be postmarked no later than:
June 3, 2008 - Direct Primary	May 19, 2008
November 4, 2008 - General Election	October 20, 2008



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
SAN FRANCISCO
582 MARKET STREET, SUITE 615
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94104
WWW.SFVOTES.ORG

VOTER NEWSLETTER
June 08 Election Edition

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