



100th Anniversary of Women Voting in California



In 1848, a group of fearless women launched a grass-roots campaign aimed at winning the right to vote. They boldly declared that women are fundamentally equal to men and set about convincing the rest of the country that women deserve the vote. This was achieved slowly and gradually at state and local levels over many decades. In 1911, California became the sixth state to allow women to vote.

This year, we celebrate 100 years of winning the right to vote in the great state of California. Women have had ups and downs throughout this time. Today, a higher percentage of women vote than men,

women's college attendance is equal to men's, and as of 2010, women make up 51% of the workforce in the United States.

However, the November 2010 election brought the percentage of women in Congress to a low of 17%. The United States is ranked 73rd in the world in the number of women in national legislative office. We trail behind Cuba and Afghanistan. San Francisco has only had one female mayor (Diane Feinstein in 1979) and Oakland just elected it's first female mayor this year (Jean Quan). The under-representation of women in public office affects everyone. Check out the 2012 Project, a national, non-partisan campaign to increase the number of women in legislative office.

League of Women Voters Centennial Celebration

The upcoming gala hosted by the League of Women Voters of San Francisco will be in honor of the Centennial Celebration of Women's Suffrage in California. Throughout the years, the League has upheld a tradition of recognizing the accomplishments and extraordinary talents of some of our city's most prestigious women. This year, we are honoring nine women who are making a difference in our community as either Rising Stars or Pioneers.

Cheryl Jennings, ABC local news anchor, will serve as the Mistress of Ceremonies and the program for the evening includes appetizers, wine and music, along with an awards program followed by a champagne toast and cake.

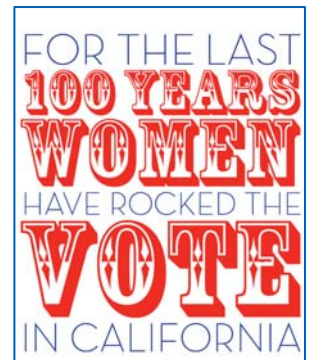
DATE: Thursday, February 10, 2011

TIME: 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: City Club, 155 Sansome Street, San Francisco

TICKETS: \$100 for League members, \$150 for non-League members

Purchase tickets today!



Citizens' Redistricting Committee Starts Work



The Citizens' Redistricting Commission, which was created through the League-supported Proposition 11, will start its work this month. The 14 members have been appointed and they represent a wide range of ethnicity, geographic area, and income level.

The first meeting is scheduled to run from January 12 to 30. It will be viewable via live-streaming and a video and transcript will be available on We Draw the Lines soon after each meeting. The Commission has allowed many days for meeting, but will not necessarily meet on each day; you will be able to find the latest update on when the meetings are being held at the same website.

Not many citizens are likely to rush to observe the first set of meetings because the business deals largely with selecting a Chair and Vice Chair, establishing procedures, and recruiting and training staff. These matters are seldom exciting to onlookers, but they are essential for the operation of the Commission and may give some clues as to the power bases within the group. As the months go by, the meetings may become exciting to many Californians whose political lives will be shaped by decisions made by the Commission.

Get Involved: League Education Study



The national League has decided to study the federal role in pre-K through grade 12 public education. The study is to be limited to issues of equity, funding and standards/assessment. The committee will begin with an overview of the history of the federal role and where it is today. They will then focus on the components of the Elementary and Secondary Education act which speak to the equity issues. Finally, the committee will address the Common Core Standards and the subsequent assessment issues.

Get involved by checking out these books recommended by the national League:

- The Death and Life of the Great American School System: How Testing and Choice Undermine Education, by Diane Ravitch
- The Flat World and Education: How America's Commitment to Equity Will Determine Our Future, by Linda Darling-Hammond.

Copies are available to borrow in the League office and at the San Francisco Public Library.

Upcoming Events

Program Planning Day

WHEN: Saturday, January 22, 2011, 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: 2675 Pacific Ave (between Scott and Pierce), San Francisco

WHY: Join us for the annual membership breakfast meeting to get a quick League update from 2010 and add your voice to shaping our 2011 priorities. We'll look at local positions to determine what worked and where we need to expand. Come add your voice!

HOW: RSVP by emailing lwvsf@lwvsf.org

CALENDAR						
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Bay Area League Day - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle: Taking it to the Next Level

WHEN: Saturday, January 29, 2011, 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

WHERE: Metro Center, 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA 94607

WHY: This highly relevant event features a keynote address by Dan Reicher, Director of Energy and Climate Initiatives at Google. There will be three panels of regional and state experts on what government is doing, what science is doing and what we can do to reduce our carbon footprint and Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

HOW: Register online at www.lwvbayarea.org

Additional details can be found on LWVSF website.