



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS Of San Francisco *THE VOTER*

Holiday Party, Sunday, December 11

An Afternoon of Food, Festivities, and Friendship

Sunday, December 11

2 to 5 p.m. (pre-party building tour at 1:30 p.m.)

Mechanics' Institute

57 Post Street (4th Floor), San Francisco

RSVP Requested: (415) 989-VOTE

Or email lwvsf@lwvsf.org.

The League of Women Voters of San Francisco invites you to celebrate a very successful year! Catch up with old friends, meet new members, and commemorate the achievements of 2005 (and the people who made them possible!)



*Please join us for
our Annual Holiday
Party!*

Before the Party, Join us for a Special Guided Tour!

Arrive at 1:30 p.m. for a special tour of the historic Mechanics' Institute. Led by a docent, League guests will view *After the Gold Rush: a 150-Year Photographic History of San Francisco's Mechanics' Institute*, and enjoy a tour of the historic building. Space is limited, so RSVP today.

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Remember the League with a Year-End Gift to the Annual Appeal

Message from LWVSF President, Jody Sanford



This is the time of year when we catch our breath after the election and shift our focus to the upcoming year. The high visibility mid-term elections of 2006 will require the League to mobilize all its resources to meet the community's needs. Voters will be able to turn to the League on television, on the web, in print, and right there in their neighborhoods to get information they can trust.

The League's loyal members and supporters can ensure we have the resources to plan a robust slate of programs by remembering the League with a year-end gift to the Annual Appeal. By now you should have received your Appeal letter in the mail, and I thank you for giving it special consideration.

With your support, we will reach out to voters and *potential* voters all across San Francisco. We will:

- host a half-dozen live Candidate forum debates in neighborhoods throughout the City
- print our *Pros and Cons Guide* in English, Spanish, Chinese, and potentially additional languages
- expand our successful election programming with Access SF Cable Channel 29 by televising debates for all four city-wide races, as well as debates on local ballot measures
- send trained League speakers to schools, cultural centers, and neighborhood associations

For more on how to support the Annual Appeal, call us at (415) 989-VOTE, or visit www.lwvsf.org.

I am grateful to all the volunteers, supporters, and community partners who share their time, talent, and treasure all year long. You are the force of the League, and your dedication allows this organization to reach tens of thousands of people. Thank you for your generosity, and please join us at the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 11 (see p. 1) to celebrate the League's recent successes and to ring in 2006!

Jody Sanford

The work of the League could not happen without the support of the following Foundations and members.

San Francisco Foundation
David B. Gold Foundation
Gwin R. Follis Foundation
Walter & Elise Haas Fund

Mary Jane Brinton
Lisa & Douglas Goldman Fund
Argosy Foundation
Seven Springs Foundation

Recognizing the Great Work of League Volunteers for the November 2005 Election



Nancy Zinn and Maureen Hanratty, time keepers at the Pro/Con Discussions.



Adele Fasick, Pro/Con Discussions Chair, at the Sunset Neighborhood Street Festival doing outreach to voters.

Brittany Ashlock: Pro/Con Guide Writer

Marjorie Bailey: Pro/Con Discussion Moderator, Assessor-Recorder forum volunteer

Martha Benioff: Smartvoter.org Chair, Candidate forum question vetter for Assessor Recorder and City Treasurer, Pro/Con writer

Nicole Bolter: Pro/Con writer

Sheila Bost: Pro/Con writer and Reading Committee

Marilyn Campbell: Membership events host, Partnership Liaison

Kristin Chu: Pro/Con moderator, Pro/Con Guide writer

Kanya Dorland: Pro/Con Guide writer

Ann Lyon Dudley: Pro/Con Discussions Co-chair, City Treasurer forum volunteer, Speakers Bureau presenter

Adele Fasick: Pro/Con Discussions Chair, Assessor Recorder and City Treasurer forum volunteer, Pro/Con Guide writer

Heather Garrett: Candidate Forum Volunteer Coordinator, Assessor Recorder and City Treasurer forum volunteer, Pro/Con moderator

Virginia Gee: Assessor-Recorder forum volunteer

Maureen Hanratty: Pro/Con Discussion time keeper, City Treasurer and Assessor Recorder candidate forum volunteer

Mary Hilton: Pro/Con Writer and Reading Committee

Cheryl Jennings: Assessor Recorder and City Treasurer forum moderator

Edwin Lord: Assessor-Recorder time keeper

Gail Morthole: Reading Committee

Tom O'Donnell: Pro/Con Guide Chair, Voter Editor

Sandra Osborne: Pro/Con Guide writer

Hector Javier Preciado: Public Relations Chair, City Treasurer forum volunteer, Pro/Con Discussions Moderator

Tuesday Ray: Voter Service Chair LWVC, Action Committee

Laura Samant: Pro/Con Discussions Moderator

Jody Sanford: Assessor-Recorder, City Treasurer, City Attorney taping forum volunteer, Pro/Con Guide Reading Committee, Pro/Con Guide writer, Pro/Con Discussion Moderator

Gail Schickele: Candidate forum Chair

Jolinda Sim: City Treasurer forum volunteer, Pro/Con Reading Committee, Speakers Bureau presenter, Community Elections Monitoring

Charlene Smith: Assessor-Recorder and City Treasurer forum volunteer, Pro/Con Reading Committee

Suzanne Stassevitch: *VOTER SERVICE CHAIR*, Ballot Simplification Committee LWVSF representative, Assessor-Recorder and City Treasurer forum volunteer, Speakers Bureau presenter, Community Elections Monitor

Jennifer Waggoner: Assessor-Recorder and City Treasurer forum volunteer, Pro/Con Discussions Moderator, LWVSF Finances and City Attorney volunteer

Allyson Washburn: Acton Committee Chair

Winnie Yu: Assessor-Recorder and City Treasurer forum volunteer, Pro/Con Discussions Moderator

Dan Zalles: Speakers Bureau presenter

Special Election Recap

By: Hector Javier Preciado, Board Member



SF Election Info:
REGISTERED
VOTERS. 428,481

BALLOTS CAST.
229,714.

VOTER TURNOUT.
53.61%

The Special Election of 2005 produced outcomes that were surprising at the state level and precedent-setting in the San Francisco. At the state level, the steady stream of “No” votes defeated all eight of the ballot initiatives. This was certainly unexpected.

The San Francisco city elections were a different matter. Citywide office races for Treasurer, Assessor-Recorder and City Attorney featured two incumbents and one uncontested race, respectively. The nine ballot measures included funding for colleges, sidewalks, firehouses, and the ethics commission. Also two measures on handguns and the presence (or lack thereof) of military recruiters in public schools.

A closer look at the elections reveals the following:

Statewide Elections

As was expected, statewide, voter turnout was low. According to the Secretary of State’s office, voter turnout for this special election was at 48.4%. This is significantly lower than the turnout for the last “special election” the state held, the recall election, which boasted turnout numbers that were in the mid 60’s. In San Francisco,

voters turned out at a rate of 53.1%, which appears to be a lower than usual turnout for San Francisco where turnout is consistently much higher than the overall state numbers. At the state level, the below 50% rate supports what political insiders and analysts had been stating from the onset, the special election was only going to fuel voter apathy.

Still the Governor persevered, moved forward, and ultimately took a political blow that compelled him to begin promoting bipartisan leadership and collaboration with the state legislature.

San Francisco City Elections

The citywide elections featured races for three offices; Treasurer, Assessor-Recorder, and City Attorney. As the City Attorney’s race was uncontested, it drew the most votes and Dennis Herrera came out victorious (98% to 2%). The Treasurer’s race revealed a victory for Jose Cisneros (garnering 62% of the vote). The Assessor-Recorder race proved to be the most competitive of the three. Incumbent Phil Ting came out victorious earning an eventual 57% to 43% over Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval.

The San Francisco League played a key role during these races, partnering with Access SF Channel 29 to produce candidate forums. Our candidate forum series featured moderated panel discussions between the candidates for Assessor-Recorder and Treasurer and were aired throughout the city. We also produced interview with Dennis Herrera, all a part of our civic engagement work to promote participation from San Francisco residents.

Similarly to the candidate forums, the League partnered once again with Access SF to produce moderated Pro-Con debates between proponents and opponents of the San Francisco ballot measures. These were moderated by League members and broadcast on a periodic schedule that ran throughout October. Both activities proved a tremendous success.

The results of the city-wide measures were telling. San Francisco voters demonstrated that though they were willing to spend for community college infrastructure improvements, education, and firehouse services, city sidewalks did not garner the 2/3 support necessary for it to pass. In addition, measures to give greater budg-

etary independence to the ethics commission and additional authority over MTA appointments to the Board of Supervisors failed.

Perhaps the most symbolic results, however, were the results on the measures for handguns and military recruiters. With the voters' approval of Measure H, the city can proceed with a ban on the manufacturing, distribution, sale and transfer of handguns within city limits. In addition, Measure I (a declaration of policy) expressed the voters desire to eliminate military recruiters in all public schools. Most of the time military recruiters outnumber college counselors in public schools. Though these measures are outside the scope of the work of the League, they are undoubtedly, precedent setting.

In conclusion, special election or otherwise, San Francisco demonstrated again why it is widely considered the bastion of progressiveness and liberalism. Though the League takes no credit for upholding that, the efforts of the board and its membership certainly helped produce a more informed citizenry. The League thanks its members and volunteers for helping to produce a more informed citizenry.

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Asuka Terouchi, League intern

A Perspective from a League Intern

By Asuka Terouchi

I am from Japan and have been in the U.S. for three years.

After studying Politics and Economics for two years in a university in Japan, I transferred to Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, to study politics and learn English, and then graduated in 2005.

Through taking a class about Non Governmental Organizations (NGO) and volunteering at a Non Profit Organization (NPO), I had an interest in those activities and wanted to gain knowledge and experience working in the U.S. before I go back to Japan.

Therefore, I moved into San Francisco where there are many non-profit organizations and those are very active. Fortunately, I had an opportunity to work for the LWVSF as an intern.

Through helping the shipment of Pros/Cons guides, the Pro/Con Discussions with Access TV, the candidate forums, and other work, I have learned many things, such as the operational and administrative components of NGO and the U.S. local political system.

The number of NGOs in my country has increased, but many people still do not have much interest in those activities.

I hope that I can work in the field that is to raise volunteerism and also awareness about local politics in order to put what I learned at LWVSF to use after I go back to Japan. Finally, I really appreciate LWVSF for giving me the great experience.

REGIONAL ACTION ON SF HETCH-HETCHY WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

An action letter was sent to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission regarding Regional Water System Improvement Program Revisions for the Hetch-Hetchy system, co-signed by LWV of San Francisco and LWVBA, supporting funding for watershed improvement, such as habitat restoration and ecosystem protection, along with watershed land acquisition, establishing a level of service for freshwater flows for environmental stewardship, emphasizing water conservation and considering the use of recycled water. The letter will soon be posted at www.lwvsf.org. A copy of the letter has been transmitted by the Bay Area League to the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency, which represents the regional water purchasers.

League Partners for the November 2005 Election

The success of the League could not be possible without the following partners:

Access SF Cable Channel 29

El Reportero Bilingual Spanish/English Newspaper

Ming Pao Daily

The San Francisco Chronicle

SF Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center

New California Media

San Francisco Public Library

Voter Service Recap for November 2005 Election

Each year the League of Women Voters of San Francisco offers city-wide non-partisan voter education programs to help citizens with their election choices. Without a doubt, this year was a great success for the League. A fundamental part of our success was our collaboration with Access San Francisco, Cable Channel 29.

Voters Guide now called the PROS & CONS GUIDE

Produced in:

- English, 20,000
- Chinese, 15,000
- Spanish, 15,000

English version distributed through:

- San Francisco Public Library
- San Francisco Chronicle*, in the Friday section on October 14, 2005
- Many high schools, colleges and universities in San Francisco
- To all current paid members and at all League events
- To the general public
- League distribution list
- Via www.lwvsf.org

Spanish version distributed through:

- Inserted into the *El Reportero*
- Via the San Francisco Public Library
- League distribution list
- Via www.lwvsf.org

Chinese version distributed through:

- Ming Pao Daily
- San Francisco Public Library
- Asian American Organizations
- Via League distribution list
- Via www.lwvsf.org

SPEAKERS BUREAU PRESENTER
17 presentations were made to a variety of groups and organizations

PRO/CON BALLOT MEASURE DISCUSSIONS

Produced with Access SF Cable Channel 29

- Featured 8 of the 9 local ballot issues
- Cable cast a total of **44.5** hours on Access SF during the last 2 weeks of the Election Season and 5.5 hours on SFGTV, Cable Channel 26
- Streamed via www.lwvsf.org

CANDIDATE FORUMS

City Attorney

Because this race was uncontested, the League did an interview with incumbent Dennis Herrera which was cablecast on Access SF.

Assessor-Recorder

The League sponsored this forum at the SF LGBT Community Center on Thursday, October 20th. Moderated by Cheryl Jennings, all candidates participated and the forum was cable cast on Access SF Cable Channel 29.

City Treasurer

The League sponsored a forum at the Koret Auditorium of the San Francisco Public Library on Thursday, October 27th. Moderated by Cheryl Jennings, all candidates participated and the forum was cablecast on Access SF Cable Channel 29.

SMARTVOTER.ORG

Smartvoter.org for San Francisco county received 23,115 unique visits, with an average of 745 visits per day for San Francisco County pages.



Members of the Access staff and League volunteers at the Assessor-Recorder forum.

LWVC Energy Study Update, by Charlene Smith, Board Member

At the 2003 Convention, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) approved a study to update the LWVC energy position in light of recent developments in the electric energy industry (here's a link to that position: <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/natres/energy.html>). The LWVC Energy Study Committee has already produced a Study Guide for use by Leagues as they examine the major changes in California's electric system. For more info about this, go to: <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/citizen/natres/energy/index.html>.

So, why are we telling you about it? Well, it's up to the local Leagues to study, or in this case update, the issue of energy in California so that we can take an enhanced or expanded position on this issue after coming to consensus. A couple of the consensus questions for this study are: What values should be considered in electric policy decision-making in the coming decade (a suggested list of values is provided)? Should investor-owned and municipal utilities in the state be expected to adhere to the same standards for renewable resources development, demand-side management procurements, and reserve requirements? Would there be advantages in having a single California Energy Agency with responsibility for energy planning, policy, facility permitting, operational integrity and regulation?

When I joined the LWVSF in 1979, studies were very much a vital part of the League. The first project I got involved in as a new member was the LWVC study of Alternative Income Sources Post-Proposition 13. Though I went to a fairly decent university, the League's process was more involved and the actual information gathering was more in-

depth, than any I'd done for my undergraduate classes. The League's hallmark is its unique grassroots approach to study and action. Leagues at every level have positions based on study and consensus among members. During the consensus process, members draw on balanced pro/con materials, develop their own resources, turn to technical experts and public officials for information, and reach out to the community through public meetings, surveys and media coverage.

Many of you know what all of these League terms mean, but for those who don't, here's a brief glossary, taken from the Pasadena Area League's website.

CONSENSUS - Substantial member agreement preferably reached through group discussion. Consensus is the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion. Discussion is based on information prepared by a study committee and is guided by consensus questions.

CONSENSUS QUESTIONS - Specific questions prepared by a study committee to stimulate interaction, focus discussion and facilitate conclusions by the group. Questions vary in style from open-ended to multiple choice. Questions are approved by the appropriate League board.

STUDY - The process of gathering information for discussion by members with a view of reaching consensus and establishing positions on a subject adopted by convention or annual meeting. Studies are conducted at all levels of League.

STUDY COMMITTEE - A group of local League members that meets regularly to carry out a current League study. The committee

researches the subject, prepares the information for members, selects the material for presentation at meetings, determines how the material will be presented and serves as resource. The study committee analyzes recorders' reports and drafts consensus reports for the local board's approval. For local studies the committee develops the consensus questions and drafts positions for local board approval.

STUDY GUIDE - A League publication dealing with a current study prepared by a national, state or inter-League organization committee providing information and suggestions to assist local League study committees.

UPDATE - A study of limited scope approved by convention delegates to reevaluate an existing position in light of new information, changed circumstance and/or conflicts with another position, with a view to considering a position change. An update may be proposed by any local League through the position review process. Any new position resulting from an update must be approved by convention delegates. Local Leagues may also undertake an update of a local position.

So, if you're interested in California's energy issues or you just like to research and examine information on a timely topic, this update study is for you! The consensus responses are due to the LWVC Energy Committee by March 15, 2006, so this is not a long-term commitment. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Jane Turnbull at (650) 559-1766 or jaturnbu@ix.netcom.com.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, December 11, 2005 Holiday Party, 2:00-5:00 pm, see page 1.

Wednesday, December 14, 2005, 12:15 - 2pm, **IN Committee North**. Berkeley at 1414 University Ave. LWVBAE office. Please send agenda items to Iris R. Winogron: iwinogron@aol.com or (510) 482-4439. Please RSVP.

Friday, December 16, 2005, Noon - 1:30, **Natural Resources/Water Committee**. EBMUB Bldg, 375 11th Street, Oakland. Mezzanine Training Conference Room TRC 2. Doug Wallace of EBMUD Bay-Delta Consensus Team will speak on CALFED now and in the future. For more info [contact natural_resources@lwvba-ca.org](mailto:contact_natural_resources@lwvba-ca.org).

Friday, January 27, 2006—BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY - STATE OF THE BAY SYMPOSIUM

The San Francisco Bay is the centerpiece of our region, and the Bay's potential decline, restoration and future health is key to our region's future. Join us on Friday, January 27 to hear about what has happened to the Bay over the past 40 years and how we can protect, use and enjoy it in the future. For more detailed information, visit www.lwvba-ca.org. The event is \$30, including morning refreshments and lunch, from 9:30 am - 2:30 pm, including excellent speakers. Registration begins at 8:30 am.

Saturday, February 25, 2006, 9 am until noon, at the South San Francisco Learning Center, 520 Tamarack Lane, SSF.

The San Mateo County League Day, "**Hetch Hetchy Water System**: The status of the rebuild and the challenges ahead" with Guest Speaker Arthur Jensen, General Manager, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency (BAWSCA).

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