



MARCH/APRIL 2010

Santa Cruz Voter

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 5

Funding Alternative Transportation

Alternative transportation is endlessly discussed, but how do we pay for it? Explore funding options in these tough economic times at the next local League event.

**Thursday, March 25, 1-3 PM
Central Branch Library Upstairs Meeting Room
224 Church Street, Santa Cruz 95060**

Fred Keeley, Santa Cruz County Treasurer and former California Assembly member, will update us on potential funding for innovative transportation in our community and the state. He'll lead a discussion on action our local League can take to insure financing for a variety of transportation methods. As an added bonus, League members and the public will learn the latest on the Rail Line Purchase. Invite your friends and neighbors.

Carpooling is encouraged. Call 426-VOTE (8683) if you need a ride or can pick up a rider.

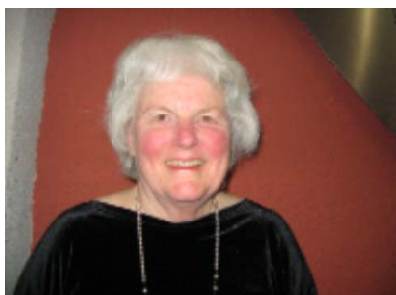
Local Program Planning Next Month

**Tuesday, April 27, 1-3 PM
Sandy Warren's Home
150 Scenic St., Santa Cruz 95060
RSVP 426-VOTE (8683)**

Local League members will select areas of emphasis of the 2010-2011 year. Suggestions for new or continued studies, as well as speakers and locations for the future are welcomed. If you are unable to attend, but have recommendations, please email through the website www.lwvscc.org or call 426-VOTE.

We'll also review our current local positions which can be found at our website, www.lwvscc.org or in your local handbook. This is an excellent opportunity for new members to meet experienced members and learn more about the League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County. Please plan on attending and carpooling if possible.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Spring is upon us and election season is around the corner. The candidates are firming their commitments with deadlines fast approaching. The League is preparing for an active commitment to its core mission of registering, informing and urging citizens to vote. I encourage each of you to determine how you fit into this picture.

We can each talk to our neighbors, friends, and family. How about downloading from the LWVC members only web site the Pros and Cons to share with those close to you? If you have a bit more time to devote, be a timer for a candidates forum. Call Morgan Rankin (426-6412). She will plug you in. Do you like to share critical information on the ballot measures? Be a speaker. Call Morgan. She will welcome your help.

Are you the action type? The League is supporting Proposition 15 on the ballot, the California Fair Elections Act. See the Voter article for more information. If you would like to work on promoting this proposition, call me (338-3875).

Another Action activity is downloading from the LWVC members only web site a one-page flier called The League of Women Voters Recommends. You can pass this out to friends, family, neighbors and others you talk with.

As we choose our activities for this election season, let's remember that the League wears two hats. One hat is nonpartisan, fair, and unbiased information about candidates and issues. The second hat is advocacy on issues we have studied and upon which we have an action position. Remember we never support candidates and do not mix our hats.

No matter how little or how much time you have to share, there is a place for each of us in carrying out the mission of the League this election season. Thanks for your help.

Ann Wise
President

Voter Service

Candidate filing deadline is March 15, extended a few days if incumbents don't file. While there are only a few ballot measures for the June 8 election, we'll be bracing for the large November 2 ballot.

Please give me a call, 426-4526, to learn what you can do to help others be informed voters.

What do high school seniors learn in class about elections and voting? Are 18 year olds registered to vote? It has been awhile since League members took civics to the high school. Let's see how to help young voters. Call 426-6412 now.

Thanks,

Morgan Rankin
Voter Services Chair

Proposition 15, the California Fair Elections Act

Fair Elections that Money Can't Buy

Santa Cruz County Prop. 15 Campaign Kickoff

Saturday, April 3, 12-2 PM
Quaker Meeting Hall
225 Rooney St., Santa Cruz 95065

Join fellow League members and folks from many other local organizations to help pass the California Fair Elections Act to provide elections that money can't buy.

The League of Women Voters has joined with hundreds of leading groups and individuals to support Proposition 15 that will change the way election campaigns are financed so politicians stay focused on the job we sent them to accomplish. It creates a pilot project for voluntary Fair Elections public financing of campaigns.

The California Fair Elections Act represents fundamental election reform that will allow candidates and elected officials to get out of the fundraising game and get back to solving California's problems. Authored by then-Assemblywoman Loni Hancock and signed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, it will appear on the June 8th ballot.

Thanks to Fair Elections, nearly 400 elected officials in seven states are accountable only to voters, not big money donors. The California Fair Elections Act is based on a tried and true system.

The California Fair Elections Act will create a pilot project to make voluntary financing available to candidates running for Secretary of State in 2014 and 2018.

The Secretary of State is responsible for overseeing and regulating the state's lobbying activity and the integrity of our elections. The California Fair Elections Act will assure voters that the Secretary of State is focusing on his or her duties, not worrying about raising campaign contributions.

- **To Qualify:** Secretary of State candidates must show broad grassroots support by receiving 7,500 \$5 qualifying contributions and signatures from registered California voters. They must also agree to strict spending limits.
- **Fair Elections Candidates Receive:** enough Fair Elections funds to run competitive primary campaigns (\$1,000,000). If they win their primary they receive enough funds to run competitive general election campaigns (\$1,300,000). Funds would come from registration fees on lobbyists, lobbying firms and lobbyist employers, with no taxpayer dollars going to candidates.
- **Fundraising Prohibitions:** participating candidates would be prohibited from raising money or spending money beyond what they receive from the fund. They are banned from raising any money for their campaign from lobbyists, their clients, or anybody else.

For Details, go to www.lwvc.org

Continue to Support Health Care Reform in California

SB 810 (Leno): Single Payer Health Care for California

Last year, Senator Mark Leno introduced the California Universal Health Care Act, nearly identical to former Senator Sheila Kuehl's single payer legislation SB 840, vetoed by the governor in 2008. SB 810 worked its way through various Senate Committees and finally to the Senate floor. On January 28, SB 810 was passed by the Senate on a vote of 22 to 14 and sent to the state Assembly. Please go to californiaonecare.org to see how you can help.

June 8, 2010 Election League Recommendations

We recommend a **YES** vote on Proposition 15.

We recommend a **NO** vote on Proposition 16.

We only take stands on measures when we have studied the issue and our membership has reached agreement on the policies and positions to support. Because League positions do not cover the issues in **Proposition 14** and **Proposition 17**, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

The League occasionally takes a neutral position on ballot measures that deal with issues we have studied, either because there are conflicting League positions or because there are aspects to a measure which in our judgment make our support or opposition inappropriate. For this reason we were neutral on **Proposition 13**.

Why Did We Make These Recommendations?

We use our positions to take stands on measures when we have studied the issue and our membership has reached agreement on the policies and positions to support. We never take positions on candidates or political parties. If you have questions about League positions and their application to a particular proposition, contact advocacy@lwvc.org

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\$100 A Day, A Social Justice Forum

April 22, Thursday, 7 PM

Santa Cruz City Police Community Room

155 Center St., Santa Cruz 95060

California State Senator Joe Simitian and the ACLU will be co-sponsoring \$100 A Day, the documentary film about a man unjustly sent to prison, his struggle to be freed and his attempt to receive his rightful compensation during these days of political partisanship. It'll be followed by a panel discussion with Senator Simitian, Rick Walker (the subject of the film) and the film maker. Because of our position on Social Justice, members will be particularly interested in attending.

Thank you, Macy's!

A big vote of appreciation goes to Macy's in the Capitola Mall for donating to the success of the League's 90th Anniversary Celebration.

