



Santa Cruz VOTER

League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County

August/September 2012

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The Affordable Care Act in practice in Santa Cruz County



featured speaker
County Health Services
Agency Director

Giang Nguyen
Wednesday

September 12, 2012
11:30 A.M. –1:30 P.M.
Center Street Grill
1001 Center Street
Santa Cruz

Calendar

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

1-3 P.M.

LWVSCC Board Meeting

Santa Cruz County Bank

720 Front Street, Santa Cruz

Wednesday, September 12

11:30 A.M. -1:30 P.M.

Lunch with HSA Director Giang Nguyen

Center Street Grill

1001 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Tuesday, September 25

Voter Registration Day

Thursday, October 4

11:00 A.M.

Pros and Cons Talk

Aptos Library

7695 Soquel Drive, Aptos

Open to League members and the public.

\$20 per person, includes admission and lunch.

RSVP by Friday, September 7 (details below)

What changes will the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act bring to your life? How will it affect health care in Santa Cruz County? Join the League at our September luncheon for an update on this important legislation presented by Giang Nguyen, director of the County Health Services Agency.

To reserve your place, please send in a check payable to LWVSCC for \$20 per person by Friday, September 7, to Peggy Marketello, 117 Oak Way, Santa Cruz, CA 95065 (questions: 423-0782 or e-mail pm4art@aol.com). Please specify your menu choice on your check: Chinese Chicken Salad, Taco Salad (indicate your choice of steak, chicken, or tofu), or Vegetarian Spinach Salad (indicate your choice with or without tofu). Lunch also includes iced tea and bread pudding for dessert.

News Briefs

✓ A provision of the Affordable Care Act has now come into effect that **requires insurance policies beginning after August 1, 2012 to fully cover the cost of preventative health care for women.** This includes contraception and various counseling, screening, and support services, which will be covered with no co-pay or deductible. More details are on the [League's National Blog](#).

✓ In May the Environmental Protection Agency issued **draft guidelines for the use of diesel fuel in hydraulic fracturing.** On August 3, US League President Elizabeth Mac Namara responded to those guidelines with a list of questions and concerns. The full text of Mac Namara's comments can be viewed on the [National League website](#).

✓ On August 7, 2012 **the California Historical Society honored the League of Women Voters of California** for its groundbreaking work in California's electoral history. The CHS stewards the official records of the LWV of California and San Francisco from 1900 to present.

✓ We encourage you to urge your state Senators to vote for these **two bills supported by the state League:** Election Day Voter Registration (AB 1436 – Feuer) and the California DISCLOSE Act (AB 1684 – Brownley), both currently making their way through the legislature. Keep track of both bills and others of interest to the League at our [online status report](#).

Vote with the League on November 6

LWV of California has announced their positions on this year's ballot measures. When League members have studied a subject and reached agreement on a particular position, the League supports ballot measures that agree with that position.

This November, the League supports the following three measures. Proposition 30, the Schools and Local Public Protection Act, begins to move California toward financial stability and adequate funding for all the services we want from our government. The SAFE California Act, Proposition 34, replaces the death penalty in California with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole; the LWV supports abolition of the death penalty. The League supports a "Yes" vote on Proposition 40, the Referendum on Redistricting, because it retains maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, a process supported by the LWV.

The League recommends a "No" vote on two measures. Proposition 31, the Government Performance and Accountability Act, creates a two-year state budget cycle, overhauls several aspects of the budgeting process, and makes changes to the legislative process. Although the measure is based on good intentions and has some pieces that, taken alone, the League could support, Prop 31 has several significant flaws and could result in years of legal challenges. The League also recommends a "No" vote on Proposition 32, the Special Exemptions Act, which the League feels is not the campaign finance reform measure its proponents say it is. Proposition 32 promises "political reform", but is really designed by special interests to help themselves and harm their opponents, and it does nothing to fix the problem of money in politics.

The League has taken a neutral position on two measures that they feel have some merit, but because they include provisions for the earmarking of funds, a practice the League does not support, they have not given them full support. Proposition 38, the Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs, provides significant funding for education and early childhood programs and provides money to help the other underfunded government services. Proposition 39, Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses, closes a tax loophole for multistate businesses, generating revenues of about \$1 billion per year—a good thing. However, it earmarks about half the new revenue for the first five years, so that portion can only be used for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects.

The League has not studied the issues addressed in the following measures, and so has no recommendation on Proposition 33 (Auto Insurance Rates), Proposition 35 (Human Trafficking), Proposition 36 (Three Strikes Reform), and Proposition 37 (Genetically Engineered Foods).

More detailed information on the League's positions on these ballot measures is available at the [California League's website](#).

Membership in the League of Women Voters is open to men and women of voting age who are U.S. citizens. Others are welcome to join the League as associate members.

Send your check payable to League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz County or LWVSCC with this form to LWVSCC, Box 1745, Capitola, CA 95010-1745.

____\$65 Individual annual membership

____\$100 Two members in a household

____\$30 Student membership

____Contribution \$ _____

Checks made out to LWVSCC are not tax deductible.

To make a tax-deductible donation, write a separate check to LWV Education Fund.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone: _____

Email _____

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

President's Message

Dear Fellow Santa Cruz County League of Women



Voters Members:

Your Board of Directors had a very productive meeting the afternoon of August 14. We were honored by the presence of Mr. Scott McGilvray and Mrs. Jackie Jacobberger. Mr. McGilvray, a local League member, spoke to us about the Smart Voter project; he has taken on the task of updating the Smart Voter information for our local elections this fall. I would urge you to

take a look at <http://www.smartvoter.org>. It is amazing what they do. They are sponsored by the League of Women Voters Education Fund, which is, if you wish to make a donation to it, tax deductible. Jackie Jacobberger, who is Management Training Advisor with the state League, and who acts as a liaison between the state and local Leagues, offered many suggestions which I, in particular, as a new president, found very helpful.

Last April the county Health Services Agency updated the League on local health care issues. At that time, the Supreme Court decision on the Patient Protections and Affordable Care Act was still pending. Giang Nguyen, who is Health Services Agency director in Santa Cruz County, will bring us up to date on how the Affordable Care Act will affect Santa Cruz County when she speaks at our September luncheon.

If you haven't already done so, be sure to send in your reservations for the September luncheon which will be September 12 at 11:30 at the Center Street Grill, 1001 Santa Cruz. Send your check in the sum of \$20.00 to Peggy Marketello, 117 Oak Way, Santa Cruz, 95065.

The state League recommends a yes vote on Propositions 30, 34, and 40. It is opposed to propositions 31 and 32. It has not taken any position on the remaining propositions. For more information about these propositions, see page 2.

*Sincerely,
Irene Thomas, President*

Membership

A family membership was received in July for Inga and George Hoffman, who are both currently also involved in the Museum of Art and History, Lifelong Learners, and the Symphony League. Inga is an active member of the American Association of University Women and a returning member of our Santa Cruz County League of Women Voters.

The response to the membership letter sent on July 6 has been good so far. A big thank you to all members who have renewed so promptly. This is a reminder to those who have not yet sent dues and any updates on contact information to send the check made out to LWVSCC to our current treasurer, Marcia Minnihan, 110 Valencia Avenue, Aptos, CA 95003, for \$65 individual or \$100 family membership. An envelope addressed to Marcia was provided with the letter for your convenience. There is a place on the form to indicate contact information you do not want included in the local roster for 2012-13. If you have any questions about dues, contact Marcia at 662-0305 or by e-mail at marcia_minnihan@hotmail.com.

Your continued support for our League of Women Voters, which serves as a respected voice for information and advocacy, is greatly appreciated.

—*Barbara Lewis*
Membership Vice President

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Voters Service

On August 8 LWVSCC had an excellent voter registration training by Inger Christenson, of the County Elections Department, at the home of Joyce Anderson in Santa Cruz. We were walked through the voter registration form, given “A Guide to Registering Voters”, and had questions discussed. There will be coordination of follow-up League voter registration activities.

On September 25, National Voter Registration Day, LWVSCC expects to have at least 12 volunteers in 6 locations throughout the county registering as many as 100 voters. If you are interested in helping register voters, contact Morgan Rankin, 426-6412, or Eve Roberson, 454-8747, e-mail: roberson.eve@gmail.com.

The last day to register to vote is October 22. To register to vote online, go to <http://www.votescount.com/reg.htm>

—*Morgan Rankin, Voters Service*

November Ballot Pros and Cons

Save Thursday, October 4, 11:00 A.M. at the Aptos Public Library, 7695 Soquel Drive, for our pros and cons talk on the November 2012 ballot measures. This program is free and open to the public.

