



The Sacramento Voter

JANUARY 2016



Happy New Year



YEAR OF THE MONKEY

Google image 12/14/15

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EVENTS

January 6, 2016, Wednesday, 11:00 AM - 12:30 p.m.: Holly Smith farewell luncheon. Il Fornaio, 1179 Galleria Blvd. Roseville, CA (next to Nordstrom's). RSVP Louise.Einspahr@gmail.com and for details and carpooling.

January 11-12, 2016, Monday-Tuesday: Unit meetings -Page 3

January 14, 2016, Thursday: 2016 Women's Policy Summit, California Center for Research on Women and Families, State Capitol, Eureka Room (basement). Free but [Register](#). Contact: danner@ccrwf.org 916-835-9806

January 30, 2016, Saturday 9:30 am – noon: Program Planning. Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd.

March 19, 2016, Saturday, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon: Forum on Higher Education. Aviator's Restaurant, 6151 Freeport Blvd.

March 22, 2016, Tuesday. TBA: Dr. Glennah Trochet: International Reproductive Rights of Women

May 21, 2016, Saturday Morning: Annual Meeting (hold the date)

Welcome New Members

Kacey Dominguez
Marjorie Lovest

Advocacy for Homeless People

On Tuesday, January 5 the "Right2Rest Act" will be discussed by the Senate Transportation & Housing Committee at the State Capitol. This legislation, SB 608, ensures that every Californian will have their civil rights and biological need for sleep respected and upheld by California State Law. For more information: www.srceh.org

Sacramento Steps Forward

Sacramento County, the City of Sacramento, and Sutter Health have come together to give \$2.4 million to Sacramento Steps Forward for homeless services. The nonprofit organization will use the funds for around 350 "rapid rehousing" units, which are meant to prevent chronic homelessness. This funding comes as part of a recent wave of spending on homeless services in Sacramento spurred by the impending El Nino winter weather as well as increased public awareness of the plight of the homeless population.

2015-2016

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Campaign Financing Report

Stronger Parties, Stronger Democracy: Rethinking Reform, by Daniel I. Weiner & Ian Vanderwalker, 9/16/2015, a Brennan Center for Justice report, "...targeted measures to strengthen political parties, including public financing and a relaxing of certain campaign finance regulations, could help produce a more inclusive and transparent politics. Party fundraising should not be entirely deregulated due to corruption risks, but 2010's Citizens United ruling, and the torrent of outside spending that followed, raise important questions about whether diverting money back into the parties can benefit democracy." Retrieved from Brennan Center for Justice, 12/16/15. E. Heaser

Region Rising and Climate Change

The recent Region Rising Regional Conference was attended by approximately 1,000 elected and appointed officials, planners, and representatives of a wide range of non governmental organizations, including the LWVSC. Valley Vision, a non-profit planning organization, and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), organized the daylong event. It celebrated the ten-year anniversary of the adoption of the SACOG Blueprint.

The Blueprint is a land use and transportation plan for the six county region (El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo, and Yuba), based on growth projected for the year 2050. This plan is based on smart growth principles and would reduce the projected growth in urbanized land by more than 350 square miles, vehicles miles traveled per capita by thirty percent, and climate change causing greenhouse gas emission by at least fifteen percent per capita.

The conference keynote speaker was Dr. Richard Florida, a highly regarded urban planner, author and professor at the University of Toronto. He emphasized creativity and thinking "outside of the box" in his presentation. Other featured speakers included elected officials and planners from Salt Lake City and Nashville, where similar regional smart growth plans have been adopted because of the critical need to mitigate climate change. By Rick Bettis

Trees and Environment

When Planting Trees Hurts the Environment an article by Eilis O'Neill, *The Nation*, 12/9/2015, discusses Uruguay's experience with establishing native forests and tree farms on former open land. These plantings were a response to the passage of the Uruguayan Forestry Law in 1987. The species of trees that are planted and on what land and where make a great difference in how much CO2 is sequestered. E. Heaser

LWVSC Meets With Women Leaders from Pakistan

Recently the LWVSC was privileged to meet with a group of eight young women leaders from Pakistan. This visit was arranged by the Northern California World Trade Center. These visitors were invited to the United States under the auspices of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program as coordinated by the Institute of International Education and were part of the "Development of Future Women Leaders, A Project for Pakistan."

These dynamic young women ranged in age from the mid-twenties to the mid-thirties. Their professional background included both print and media journalism, business, government agency management, business and trade analyses, and leadership positions in women's advocacy and family services organizations.

Discussions at this meeting were wide-ranging with an emphasis on women's rights and opportunities for participation in politics and public policy leadership positions. It is important to note that there are quotas of up to thirty-three percent for women's membership in elected government bodies in Pakistan. One dynamic young woman in the group announced her intent to run for the National Assembly as soon as she reaches the qualifying age of twenty-five. By Rick Bettis

January Unit Meetings

For January, Unit Leaders are asked to conduct a consensus meeting answering the questions provided for the United States League of Women Voters' Money in Politics Review and Update Study. This input will be an important factor leading toward an update of the League's position on campaign financing. Questions are in the Study Guide* OR reprinted in the December *Voter*. **Consensus results due February 1, 2016 to B. Lee**

Unit	Date & Time	Contact	Location
Mid-City	Monday January 11, 2016, 6:15 p.m.	Eileen Heaser 456-2154	449 San Miguel Way, Sacramento, 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday January 12, 2016, 9:15 a.m.	Anne Berner Helen Shryock 944-1042 & 944-2274	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday January 12, 2016, 10:00 a.m.	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday January 12, 2016, 1:00 p.m.	Bill & Elaine Lee 688-5360	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Contact Bill Lee, Unit coordinator, 916-688-5360, units@lwvsacramento.org OR oggie2lee@comcast.net if you are unable to attend the Unit meetings but would like to receive emails of the Unit discussion materials,

Links to materials referenced in the December 2015 *Voter*.

[Money in politics: introduction and overview](#)

* [Study Guide for the money in politics consensus](#)

[The Debate: can government regulate money in politics?](#)

[Corruption and rational in regulating campaign finance](#)

Other websites for information concerning financing campaigns/elections.

California Secretary of State www.sos.ca.gov

Cal-Access www.sos.ca.gov/Cal-Access Financial information by state candidates, donors, lobbyists and others

Fair Political Practices Commission www.fppc.ca.gov

Votersedge www.Votersedge.org Unbiased, non-partisan election information, candidates, ballot measures, facts about voting in U.S. election, etc.

MapLight www.maplight.org Nonpartisan research org. reveals money's influence on politics. Find bills, total contributions, contributions by vote, organization positions, timeline, etc.

Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org LWV site information about local & state wide candidates; searchable by Zip code

Sustainability

An interesting article by James Fallows, "The planet-saving, capitalism-subverting, surprisingly lucrative investment secrets of Al Gore," *The Atlantic*, 11/2015: 84-96. After ten years Al Gore and partners, whose firm, Generation Investment Management, is proving to be a new version of capitalism, that is "...that will shift the incentives of financial and business operations to reduce environmental, social, political and long-term economic damage being caused by unsustainable commercial excess." pg. 86. The average return on Generation's Global Equity Fund was 12%. It was the highest returning fund in this "bracket" and was the least volatile. E. Heaser



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Book Notice

[Campaign Finance and Political Polarization: When Purists Prevail](#), a new book by Raymond La Raja and Brian Schaffner, was published by the University of Michigan Press. The book explores efforts to reform the U.S. campaign finance system, which typically focus on the corrupting influence of large contributions. These authors argue that reforms aimed at cutting the flow of money into politics have unintentionally favored candidates with extreme ideological agendas thus fostering political polarization.

Taking data over 20 years from 50 states and the U.S. Congress, the authors explain that current rules allow wealthy ideological groups and donors to dominate the financing of political campaigns. In order to attract funding, candidates take uncompromising positions on key issues and, if elected, take their partisan views into the legislature. Their proposal for a remedy: additional campaign money should be channeled through party organizations rather than directly to candidates as these organizations tend to be less ideological than the activists who now provide most of the money to political candidates. They argue that shifting campaign finance to parties would ease polarization by reducing the influence of "purist" donors with their rigid policy stances. They think that less regulation, particularly for political parties, may in fact improve the democratic process. La Raja and Schaffner conclude the book with policy recommendations for campaign finance in the United States. Retrieved from *Lexis/Nexis* 12/8/2015, as released by the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Excepted by E. Heaser