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Where We Stand

From the LWVUS Board of Directors

Below is the full text of the motion adopted by delegates to our 46th national convention. The League has a long tradition of reaching agreement through deliberative, democratic processes. There was disagreement with the LWVUS stance opposing a Voter-Verified Paper Trail (VVPT). At convention, by following League process, we arrived at a revised interpretation of our "Citizen's Right to Vote" position.

See: *Where We Stand (Continued)* on page 5

National Convention News

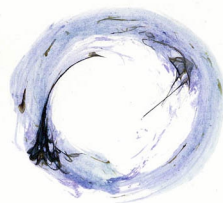
WASHINGTON, DC - The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) held its 46th biennial national convention this week at the Washington Hilton hotel. More than seven hundred delegates from 47 states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands, attended. The four-day gathering gave League members the opportunity to celebrate the League's accomplishments on civic engagement, campaign finance and election reform and to discuss important policy issues.

"This Convention proved that the League remains a vibrant, grass-roots organization," stated Kay J. Maxwell, newly re-elected LWVUS president. "We debated many of the critical issues facing citizens across the nation, including civil liberties, the death penalty, the ERA, No Child Left Behind and electronic voting. As is the League's long and storied tradition, a variety of thoughtful perspectives were expressed through dialogue and debate," Maxwell added

The Pew Partnership for Civic Change, a national civic research organization, presented the League with their 2004 Civic Change Award. This is the first time that an organization, rather than an individual, received the award. In making the announcement, Alma Powell, Pew Partnership's national advisory board chair and a past recipient, said, "The League of Women Voters has made this country better for more than eight decades ... Its voice of wisdom and reason has raised the level of our civic conversations and given future generations the tools to create a better America."

Additional highlights of the convention included a panel discussion on "Balancing Civil Liberties and Homeland Security in a Post-September 11th Age," featuring representatives from the 9/11 Commission, Georgetown University Law Center, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Constitution Project; remarks by U.S. Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN), Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and an enthusiastic banquet address by famed White House correspondent Helen Thomas.

Delegates voted to adopt the FY2004-2005 LWVUS budget and elected a new Board of Directors. Attendees also set the LWVUS program agenda for the next two years, voting to revise the League's stance on voting machines and making the protection of civil liberties a priority for the national organization.



President's Column

A Time of Challenges and Solutions

by Carol Moon Goldberg

This year promises to be an interesting and challenging one in the life of LWV of Sacramento County. While our membership number is stable, the number of people actively doing the work of the League is declining. Our finances are strained by increasing costs. These circumstances are not unique to our League, other Leagues and other volunteer-run organizations are in similar situations.

This is not a time to panic. This is a time to be flexible and creative. That's just what LWVS intends to do. All we need is your willingness to help. Don't wait to be recruited...step forward with your time, ideas, and expertise.

Our challenges and solutions fall into several categories: internal structure, programming, and action.

Internal Structure



Of course we all want to talk about the large and important issues of the day. That's why we joined the League. However, in light of diminishing volunteer resources, we must spend time examining ways for League to become more efficient

at what we do and how we do it. We need to look at the structure of our League in terms of units, board structure and composition, and general operations.

One change in board structure has already occurred. Rather than a president, we have a "Management Committee" consisting of former president and current VP Administration Suzanne Phinney, current VP for Voters Service Hazel Bergtholdt, and former Board member Carol Moon Goldberg. The duties of presidency will be split up three ways with Suzanne taking the more public duties, Carol doing the more internal League duties and filling in whatever

else is needed, and Hazel taking on more of both of the functions after the elections.

Several Board positions are vacant. Efforts to fill them will be made throughout the year. An off-Board person can handle some specific functions. The areas most in need of personnel are in program, action, and Speakers' Bureau, and fund development. As mentioned before, don't wait to be recruited. You know your skills and abilities. Please offer them.

We need leadership development throughout the year, so that we can groom our future leadership and make accepting a leadership position easier and more comfortable.

Programming

This part of League was focused on providing information for unit meetings. Now units are losing attendance. Some are disbanding. With the absence of a specific director to handle program, combined with the loss of unit attendance we must have more general meetings.

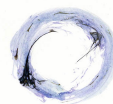
We look to you, our membership to provide us with your contacts and ideas on program planning, particularly in our areas of emphasis...Issues of Aging and Renewal of Transportation Tax (Measure. A). We need volunteers to handle EMT's and planning meetings. This has always been a volunteer organization and it needs you now, as much as it ever did.

Action

If the Board decides to back Measure A or any other measure on the Nov. ballot we need someone to develop some expertise in the issue who is comfortable with speaking if necessary.

We have options and opportunities to make LWVS better and more workable.

With creativity and flexibility we can improve things. We want, value, need and very much appreciate your thoughts and ideas on how we do this. Please contact anyone on the Management Committee with your ideas, suggestions, and willingness to volunteer.



Measure A Transportation Sales Tax Expected On November Ballot

By Rick Bettis

(July 9, 2004) For the past year the Sacramento Transportation Authority (STA) has been preparing to place the renewal of Measure A on the November ballot. This one-half percent additional sales tax is used for transportation related projects in Sacramento County. The STA is a joint powers authority that allocates and administers the tax funds. The STA Board consists of members of the County Board of Supervisors, and representatives from each of the City Councils in the County. Measure A was selected as one of the LWVS "Issues for Emphasis" in 2004 at our Annual Meeting.

The original Measure A was passed in 1988 and will expire in 2008. Since the passage of State Proposition 218 by 53 percent of the voters in 1996, local tax measures, such as Measure A require a two-thirds vote for passage. In anticipation of a potential initial defeat the STA decided to put measure on the 2004 ballot so that there would be additional opportunities in 2006 and 2008. The LWVS has participated in the process that has been, in part, driven by the need to attain the two-thirds vote needed for passage. The process has included:

- A telephone poll of likely voters
- A Technical Advisory Committee made up of staff representatives of County and City transportation related departments such as Public Works, Regional Transit, and Paratransit.
- A Citizens Advisory Committee consisting of business, environmental, labor, senior, disabled and minority groups.
- Several randomly selected focus group discussions.
- Public workshops and hearings before the STA and other governing boards and councils.

The transportation agencies believe that the one half-percent tax will be inadequate, however polling results indicated that an increase to a two-thirds percent tax would not receive the required two-thirds vote. There was also significant public support for alternative modes of transportation, an emphasis on maintenance of existing facilities, environmental protection, and growth control.

Estimates predict this tax will raise \$5.2 billion during its 30-year renewal period from 2008 to 2038. In addition the measure will include fees on new land development that cause a need for new transportation facilities. This fee will add approximately \$500 to \$700 million to the 30-year total funding. The measure's spending plan gives the largest amounts, 35 and 30 percent, to transit operations and maintenance and road maintenance, and 20 percent for freeway and road construction. Smaller amounts are allocated to Paratransit, biking and pedestrian facilities, transit construction, air quality programs, and environmental protection.

The business and development community supports the measure, and it's acceptable to the transportation agencies and transit providers. Some disability and minority groups oppose it as they feel it does not meet their needs. It is also opposed by environmentalists primarily because of funding included for a Highway 50 (Rancho Cordova) to Elk Grove and to Interstate 5 connector road, which they feel will induce more urban sprawl.

Sacramento Transportation/Air Quality Collaborative Starts Negotiations Phase

by Rick Bettis

(July 9, 2004) The League of Women Voters of Sacramento (LWVS) continues its participation in the Sacramento Transportation/Air Quality Collaborative, which has entered its negotiation stage, and is scheduled for completion in mid 2005. The Collaborative was formed in May 2001 and has completed initiation, education, and visioning phases. Each of the participating interest groups has completed their "Issues and Interests" statements and alternative land use and transportation scenarios for the year 2050 have been prepared and evaluated. A list of "Common Understandings" has been developed. These are statements of agreed to facts or indications that are intended to serve as a basis for negotiations.

See [Transportation \(Continued\)](#) on page 4

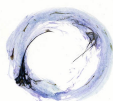
Transportation (Continued)

The County, the cities, other transportation agencies in Sacramento County, and Caltrans fund the Collaborative. There are, approximately 55 stakeholders organized in the following five primary interests groups.

- **Business** - Seventeen Chambers of Commerce and building industry and transportation business representatives.
- **Community Interest group** - representative of Seniors, Disabled, Hispanic, Asian, African Americans, Affordable Housing, Advocates, No way LA, Paratransit, and the LWVS.
- **Environmental** - representatives of six Environmental organizations.
- **Government** - representative of 11 Government agencies.
- **Local Community Participants** - Seventeen representatives of geographical areas and districts in the County and Cities

As adopted "The purpose of the Collaborative is to develop a long-range and comprehensive strategy for the Sacramento Countywide area to improve transportation and air quality within a regional context, including relevant land use and economic vitality strategies. This will be accomplished through an interest-based negotiation process commencing with education and visioning activities."

The "interest based" negotiations are an attempt to achieve consensus based on the book 'Getting to Yes', which emphasizes striving for the "best available attainable alternative". If consensus is not achieved a 75 percent super majority is required before any proposal will be adopted.



Voter Services Needs You!

Hazel Bergtholdt

This summer we helped register voters at the IRS building, Ben & Jerry's Free Cone Day, and at the Juneteenth celebration.

An election year is coming up and the requests for speakers are flowing in. There are supposed to be around 14 propositions on the ballot! Please come to my Speaker Bureau Training at my house starting August 21st from 10 am to 12pm.

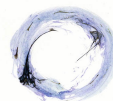
If you are interested in getting onto my e-mail list so that you are kept up to date about all the volunteer opportunities that Voter Service can provide, please contact me at voterservice@lwvsacramento.org. You can also call me at 960-1000 or 928-9486.

I will continue hosting training of Speakers and also moderators for the next three Saturdays (see *Calendar 2004* on page 7). At the August 21st meeting I will show you an outline of speeches I've given, a video of an alternative approach and materials from the last election so you can work on your own speeches. We will then meet the next Saturday to practice in front of the group. When the information on the pros and cons comes in, I will distribute the information and the next weekend we will meet again to practice speeches. The first two Saturdays in August could also be moderator training.

Not comfortable speaking in public? How about helping with registration? I am currently registering voters every second Saturday at Ben & Jerry's in the Arden Mall for Rock the Vote. I also have another IRS Voter Registration drive coming up September 20-22 from 10 am to 1pm. I still need volunteers for this. Our registration drive in June registered around 15 voters. I also will participate in the October 3rd Learning to Live in America Fair and will register voters there as well. I am also looking into getting involved with the Smackdown Voter Registration Drive which will register voters at a wrestling event in late August.

Then there is a new exciting event called "California Voices" which is being done in conjunction with the California Libraries. It is going to be a video conference with adult learners. I need volunteers for this as well. There will be a meeting August 10 that I need a volunteer for and then the actual conference will be in October.

Finally, please come to my Voter Service Meetings at the League Office every third Monday at 6pm.



Where We Stand (Continued)

The convention resolution substituted principles and criteria – “secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible” – for the language that previously took a stand on a type of technology, i.e., an individual paper confirmation for each ballot, or voter-verified paper trail (VVPT). Thus the League has moved from taking a stand on types of technology to taking a stand on the goals or principles any particular technology must fulfill. The criteria – “secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible” – are not code words for VVPT or for any other type of technology.

This revised stance, based on the “Citizen’s Right to Vote” position, means that:

- The League neither supports nor opposes any type of technology per se, such as Direct Recording Electronic voting machines (DREs), VVPT, or optical scan.
- Leagues may advocate for the four criteria, but it would not be appropriate to advocate for or against a type of technology, as indicated above, since that would be inflexible and would undermine technological innovation.
- Because election laws and current equipment are different in each state, Leagues in each state may support particular voting systems appropriate to them, including the management, operational and polling place procedures associated with the equipment. But before lobbying for or against a particular voting system, the system as a whole should be evaluated against the criteria, and only those that meet all four criteria may be supported.

We ask that Leagues consult with the LWVUS before taking action in order to ensure that the League speaks with one voice in the application of this revised interpretation of the “Citizen’s Right to Vote” position.

The following is the text of the motion made by the President of the LWV of Minnesota and passed by convention delegates:

“Whereas there is strong disagreement among League members on the interpretation of the position on ‘Citizen’s Right to Vote’ that the LWVUS has taken on whether a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail should be a requirement with Direct Recording Electronic Voting,

Be it resolved that LWVUS remove the following wording from its interpretation: The

LWVUS supports an individual audit capacity for the purposes of recounts and authentication of elections for all voting systems. The LWVUS does not believe that an individual paper confirmation for each ballot is required to achieve these goals. An individual paper confirmation for each ballot would undermine disability access requirements, raise costs and slow down the purchase or lease of machines that might be used to replace machines that don’t work. The experts that we have consulted say that there are many safeguards other than an individual paper ballot confirmation that can protect the sanctity of the ballot and that other issues are far more important in safeguarding our election systems.

The LWVUS interpretation of the position on ‘Citizen’s Right to Vote’ will now read: In order to ensure integrity and voter confidence in elections, the LWVUS supports the implementation of voting systems and procedures that are secure, accurate, recountable, and accessible.”

The LWVUS Board is working through the application of this revised stance and will send additional guidance. In the interim this message should provide an initial basis for a shared understanding among Leagues of the action taken at convention



Keeping California’s Lights on: The League and Energy

First in a series of articles updating the California LWV (LWVC) Energy Position

The LWVC recognizes that a full study of Energy would cover more than electricity. However, due to the timeliness and complexity of questions relating to Electrical Energy, and due to limited resources, the delegates at the 2003 Convention instructed that this Update should be restricted to electricity systems in California and their governance.

See [Energy \(Continued\)](#) on page 6

Energy (Continued)

For one startling moment at LWVC convention 2003, the lights went out all over the auditorium. And for a long hot summer in 2001, the threat of rolling blackouts was part of the daily life of all Californians. And although the West Coast has not had a major multi-state transmission outage since August 1996, the August 2003 blackout of the eastern U.S. and Canada only serves to point up our vulnerability.

All of these warnings point up the crucial need in this new century to find the best way to secure and deliver an adequate and reliable supply of electricity for our state. This needs to be done in a way that respects the social and natural environment. New decisions will be made in Sacramento and in our local communities; new sources of energy and new techniques of delivering it will continue to evolve. The League must be in a position bring its principles to bear on public energy policy. Unfortunately, our Energy Position was last updated in 1980—a quarter of century ago! In its day it was a thoughtful position. Today we are critically aware of its limitations.

Our 1980 Position permits us to speak only on:

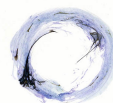
- Conservation
- Public health and safety
- Environmental protection
- Renewable sources
- Siting of facilities
- Tax incentives for conservation and renewables

This leaves a number of areas that we have not studied in sufficient depth to be able to comment. Before 2001 there was little concern in California about a shortage of generation capacity and of transmission facilities. Then came a “perfect storm” which peaked in 2001—drought in the northwest, extreme heat in the southwest, excessive and unregulated prices of natural gas from out of state, bottlenecks in related markets, unexpectedly high business growth in the technology sector, and a flawed attempt at deregulation.

Through this experience we gained a new perspective on energy questions. We now see many additional areas calling for an updated Energy Position. We need to be able to address:

- Integration of energy policy - from production to transmission to delivery
- Re-regulation or de-regulation - or something else

- State and federal regulatory conflicts
- Differing roles of investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and public utilities
- Issues of social equity
- Role of the public in planning
- Direct access for some users
- Distributed energy resources (DER)¹
- Emerging sources of energy--solar, wind, fuel cells and more
- During the coming months we will be producing a series of articles expanding on all of these questions. We hope you will read them thoughtfully and bring your light to the League by joining in the Study to Update the LWVC Energy Position.



Web Aids For Registration & Turn-out

Check out these web sites to see novel ways of reaching out to voters to help increase registration and voter turnout. National and local leagues are involved in all of these efforts.:

- smackdownyourvote.com
- smartwomenvote.com
- www.rockthevote.org

Other Websites of Interest

Smart Voter — www.smartvoter.org

CA Budget Project — www.cbp.org

Secretary of State — www.ss.ca.gov

CA Senate — www.senate.ca.gov

CA Assembly — www.assembly.ca.gov

CA Legislative Analyst — www.lao.ca.gov

US legislation — thomas.loc.org



1. Distributed energy resources are small-scale power generation facilities (typically in the range of 3 to 10,000kW) located close to where electricity is used (e.g., a home or business) to provide an alternative to or an enhancement of the traditional electric power system.

Calendar 2004

August

- 10 ☘ *California Voices* meeting
- 14 ☘ 2-6pm Rock the Voter Registration Arden Marketplace Ben & Jerry's
- 16 ☘ 6pm Voter Service Meeting at League Office
- 19 Board Program Planning/Board Orientation meeting
- 21 ☘ 10am-12pm: Speaker Training at Hazel's House (call 960-1000 or 928-9486)
- 28 ☘ 10am-12pm: Speaker Training at Hazel's House
- 31 ☘ 4-6 PM August: Smackdown Registration Event.
Call the office (447-VOTE) for location

September

- 4 ☘ 10am-12pm: Speaker/Moderator Training at Hazel's House
- 11 ☘ 10am-12pm: Speaker/Moderator Training at Hazel's House
- 19 ☘ 6pm: Voter Service Meeting League Office

October

November

- 2 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day (Office Closed)

☘ = Voter Services Events



It's Easy To Join the League of Women Voters

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Mail this coupon and a check for one year's dues to:

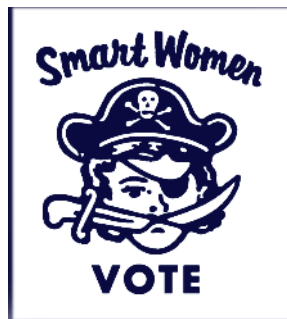
League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
1507 21st Street, Suite 303
Sacramento, CA 95814

The League of Women Voters is a non-profit advocacy organization. Contributions and membership dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes.

Joining LWVS makes you a member of all levels of the League: Sacramento, State and National Individual Membership \$50 _____

All people are welcome, regardless of gender

(See *LWVS Diversity Policy* on page 8)



Ideas? Articles? Send them to votereditor@lwvsacramento.org.

Thanks to the board and fellow LWV members for their help getting this newsletter out.

--Mark Dempsey, editor

Opportunities

Contact the League Office NOW to learn how you can help make EVERY VOTE COUNT!

- Assist Voter Services by:
 - Providing Voter Supplies
 - Registering Voters
- Assist the Registrar of Voters
 - Volunteer on Election Day

League of Women Voters Sacramento Mission Statement

To encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.

LWVS Diversity Policy

LWVS affirms, in both its values and practices, its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation based on national origin, race, gender, creed/religion, age, sexual orientation or disability. (Adopted 2001)

The League recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWV subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

The League affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of America in its board, staff and programs.

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
1507 21st Street Suite 303
Sacramento, CA 95814

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