



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

SEPTEMBER 2007

IMMIGRATION FORUM SEPTEMBER 19, 2007, 7:00 PM

University of Southern California (USC) State Capitol Center
1800 I Street, Sacramento 95814
Parking on street and basement garage

PANEL:

Kirsten H. Hill, Staff Attorney
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
“Provisions of U.S. Immigration Law”

Sue Curda, District Director
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service
“Status of Citizenship Application Process in California”

Elaine Abelaye, Executive Director
Asian Resources, Inc.
“Experience Serving New Immigrants in Sacramento”

“CLIMATE CHANGE, DESPAIR & EMPOWERMENT” ROADSHOW THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 7:00-9:00 PM

Rainforest Information Centre, sponsored by Therapists for Social Responsibility
Trinity Cathedral, Great Hall, 2620 Capitol Ave., Sacramento.

UNITS MEETING SEPTEMBER 10 AND 11

BOARD MEETING SEPT. 17 AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEAGUE OFFICE

2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Saturday, August 25th, was a lovely day for a parade from Southside Park to the Capitol. And LWVSC won the first place ribbon for best marching unit in the Women's Equality Day Parade commemorating and reaffirming women's right to vote.

This message calls your attention to the wealth of study materials published on the LWVUS national web site, www.lwv.org, for the LWVUS Immigration Study.

The Immigration Study scope includes the underlying values and principles regarding immigration, reasons for immigration, current federal immigration policy, and the impact of immigration. LWVUS does not have a position on immigration and, as a result, did not speak to the immigration bill before Congress this year. The study timeline concludes next spring the adoption of a position.

LWVUS Immigration Study consensus questions were published recently on the national web site. On September 1, LWVUS will publish a Leader's Guide which will include "pros and cons" type discussion materials to use for our consensus meetings this fall. The local leagues are anxiously awaiting the release of these final study resources. Many local league study committees started examining the subject early, as ours did with our March and September forums.

"Immigration Policy in the 21st Century" was the topic of a three-person panel discussion at the LWVUS Council 2007 in Washington DC on June 11, 2007. The panel featured: Donald Kerwin, Executive Director, Catholic Legal Immigration Network; Doris Meissner, Senior Fellow, Migration Policy Institute; and Frank Sharry, Executive Director of National Immigration Forum. You can watch or listen to this informative panel on the national web site. Or you can download the podcast for listening on the go.

Also on the national web site, you will find the testimony presented to the House Judiciary Committee by Leadership Conference on Civil Rights President Wade Henderson. In his May 3, 2007, testimony, Henderson addresses the integral connections between immigration and civil rights.

The February and June issues of the National Voter contain a historical perspective and two study briefs. The next Voter will have more. If you have already recycled your Voters, you can download a copy of any Voter article from the national web site.

The national study committee published a total of eight background papers on the web. Our local committee has written abstracts for four of them which we published as Every Member Tool inserts in the Sacramento Voter. The national study committee also published a resource list of books, reports, and articles.

**LWV CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP
HOSTED BY LWV SACRAMENTO COUNTY
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2007, 9:30 AM TO 2:30 PM**

The League of Women Voters of California is offering training workshops throughout the state to local League members and the general public.

These workshops are designed to train members as well as educate potential members about the League, its programs and services.

Highlights of these workshops include new LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama, discussing "21st Century League". This new class replaces League 101 which has been retired. Please note that LWVC has combined Voter Service, Membership and Community Visibility into a new and exciting class. Part of the "How To Do A Study" class will involve the new state study process.

Sign up and learn how to make a difference in your community. Bring a friend!

Tentative Schedule:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9:30 am | Registration, Morning Coffee/Snacks and Publication Sales |
| 10:00 am | Welcome and Introduction |
| 10:15 am | Using Voter Service to Attract Membership & Raise Community Visibility NEW! |
| 11:30 am | Break (Publication Sales open through lunch) |
| 11:45 am | Lunch – "Round Table" Discussions |
| 12:30 pm | How To Do A Study |
| 1:15 pm | Break |
| 1:25 pm | 21st Century League NEW! |
| 2:10 pm | Wrap-Up/Evaluations |
| 2:30 pm | Workshop Ends |

Location: USC State Capital Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

Registration Fees: Workshop and Lunch \$25, Workshop Only \$15

Register (and pay by credit card) at the LWVC web site at <http://ca.lwv.org> , or mail a check (payable to LWVC) to Jennifer Joseph.

Online registration closes Sep 15, 2007 11:59 PM

Event coordinator: Jennifer Joseph, jjoseph@lwvc.org , 888-870-8683, LWVC, 801 12th Street, Suite 220, Sacramento, CA 95814

YOUR INPUT REQUESTED BY SEPTEMBER 19 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN 2035

By Rick Bettis

LWVSC members should take advantage of the opportunity to provide input to one of the most important local public policy decisions that will soon be made for our region, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan 2035, which will be adopted this fall by the Board of Directors of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments. SACOG is the regional planning agency for the Counties of El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, Sutter, Yolo and Yuba.

MTP 2035 is a comprehensive transportation plan for the region based on the SACOG regional Blueprint adopted in 2004. The plan includes planning principles and policies, and list of projects and their estimated costs that are now projected to meet the transportation needs for the region through 2035. It covers an approximate 30-year period and is updated every five years. Public input is vital. Comments will be considered for MTP 2035, and future updates.

The MTP allocates a total of \$41.7 billion (today's dollars) in transportation spending for the region through 2035. For Sacramento County a total of approximately \$19.5 billion has been projected. Of this, \$10.5 billion is for 130 public transit projects, while approximately \$9 billion for 462 road projects. Funding for these projects will come from Federal, State, and local sources. The primary local source is the Measure A one-fourth cent transportation sales tax. The recently passed and future State transportation bonds and the gas tax will be the primary State source, while Federal funding will come from the transportation trust funds, gas tax, and special congressional allocations.

Transportation is closely linked to land use and is the major source of air quality impacts in Sacramento County. Open space and natural habitats are being diminished and our air quality does not meet State and Federal health based standards. As stated in the policies and positions contained in the current LWVSC Handbook and Roster the League supports regional planning, policies that "changes our heavy reliance on the automobile in order to solve the environmental and social hazards caused by the overuse of the motor vehicle, we support improved public transportation and vehicle restrictions which will promote our goals of sound land use and energy consumption policies while preserving the environment and quality of life within the region." The LWVSC has participated in the MTP and Blueprint processes since their inception.

Comments on the draft MTP are due September 19, 2007. Detailed information on the plan may be obtained from, and comments submitted on the website www.sacog.org/mtp/2035. Comments may also be submitted by mail to Sacramento Area Council of Governments, MTP 2035, Attn. Matt Carpenter, 1415 L Street, Suite 300, Sacramento, Ca. 95816, or by fax to MTP 2035, Attn. Matt Carpenter at 916-321-9551. For questions you may call Matt Carpenter at 916- 340-6221.

**CLIMATE CHANGE, DESPAIR & EMPOWERMENT ROADSHOW
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH, 7 TO 9 PM
TRINITY CATHEDRAL, GREAT HALL
2620 CAPITOL AVE., SACRAMENTO**

Worldwide concern on climate change has lead the Rainforest Information Centre from Australia to take to the road to address the psychological impacts of global warming as well as the importance of grass roots response. The 'Climate Change, Despair and Empowerment' roadshow seeks to catalyse, invigorate and support grassroots study and action on climate change and encourages people to engage in social and political change. **Therapists for Social Responsibility** is bringing this multimedia event to Sacramento.

The evening will be opened by Pat Rasmussen of the World Temperate Rainforest Network speaking on the impacts of global warming on temperate rainforests.

Rainforest Information Centre presenter Kelly Tudhope will address the role that public and personal denial, helplessness and despair play in thwarting the fight against climate change.

The 90 minute Roadshow also aims to unveil the false and "business as usual" solutions suggested by business leaders and political parties such as nuclear power and so called "clean coal".

Following the presentation, local groups are invited to participate and speak about their initiatives and directions. The project is developed by and supported by the Rainforest Information Centre, an all volunteer non-political environmental organization. For more information, see www.climate.net.au and www.rainforestinfo.org.au and www.therapistsforsocialresponsibility.org.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Linda Legg
Laurie Pejuhesh
Cynthia Short
Muriel Strand (Returning Member)

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTORS

Diane Ramsey

UNIT MEETINGS

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Sept. 10 6:15 PM	Doris White 383-0189	8632 Fallbrook Way Sacramento
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Sept. 11 9:30 AM	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
Greenhaven/ Land Park*	Tuesdays 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins* 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle* Sacramento
*GREENHAVEN/LAND PARK WILL NOT BE MEETING IN SEPT. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE IN OCTOBER. MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME TO ATTEND OTHER UNITS. THE ALTERNATE CONTACT FOR SEPTEMBER IS ROSEANNA TORRETTO, 916-483-6545.			
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Sept. 11 Noon	Nancy Myers 689-6943	La Fuente Mexican Restaurant 9631 E. Stockton Blvd. Elk Grove

SEPTEMBER UNIT TOPIC: SB 840 (KUEHL) SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE

At the annual meeting on June 2nd, we adopted three issues of emphasis for 2007-2008, including advocacy of single-payer universal health care and SB 840. At the September unit meetings we will discuss SB 840 and other pending health care bills.

“SB 840 would establish the California Healthcare System to be administered by the newly created California Healthcare Agency under the control of a Healthcare Commissioner appointed by the Governor and subject to confirmation by the Senate. The bill would make all California residents eligible for specified health care benefits under the California Healthcare System, which would, on a single-payer basis, negotiate for or set fees for health care services provided through the system and pay claims for those services. The bill would provide that a resident of the state with a household income, as specified, at or below 200% of the federal poverty level would be eligible for the type of benefits provided under the Medi-Cal program. The bill would require the commissioner to seek all necessary waivers, exemptions, agreements, or legislation to allow various existing federal, state, and local health care payments to be paid to the California Healthcare System, which would then assume responsibility for all benefits and services previously paid for with those funds. This bill contains other related provisions and other existing laws” (<http://www.ca.lwv.org//lwvc/action/bsr/bsr.html>).

Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator for 2007-2008, will provide discussion materials. Eileen can be reached at 916-456-2154 or cheaser@csus.edu. She also chairs the LWVSC Voter Affidavit Outreach Project.

LWV SACRAMENTO COUNTY 2007-2008 REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETINGS

Unit Meetings will take place in the week beginning the first Monday after the first Tuesday of every month from September through May.

The Board of Directors plans to meet on the second Monday after the first Tuesday of every month.

SAVE THE DATE

On October 19, 2007, EdSource will serve as an independent, impartial host to a non-partisan Convening in Sacramento: *Getting From Facts to Policy: An Education Policy Convening*

The October 19 *Getting From Facts to Policy Convening* will be a day-long event in Sacramento near the Capitol. Invitees include business and civic leaders, researchers, education professionals, community and reform advocates, and state officials. The Convening will focus on research-based policy options related to these four areas: education governance, school finance, personnel and leadership, and education data systems.

On Wednesday, October 24, 2007, the United Nations Association of the USA, Sacramento Chapter, will celebrate United Nations Day with its annual dinner. The guest speaker will be Carol Medlin, PhD, MPA, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, History and Social Medicine and Global Health Sciences at UC San Francisco. Her topic will be public health intervention in developing countries with an emphasis on HIV/AIDS and malaria.

JOIN, RENEW, OR CONTRIBUTE ONLINE AT www.lwvsacramento.org

Or mail this coupon and a check for one year's dues of \$50 to:

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
801 12th Street, Suite 210, Sacramento, CA 95814

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Membership is open to all U.S. citizens, 18 years of age or older. Non-citizens and youth under 18 may join as associate members. Membership dues, payable to the LWVSC, are \$50 per year (\$75 for families). Membership dues are not deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes. Joining the LWVSC makes you a member of all levels of League (local, state, and national).



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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www.lwvsacramento.org

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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.

DOES THE LWVSC KNOW YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS?

The LWV is trying to focus its communications online and in email. It helps reduce costs and increase communication about upcoming events and action alerts.

If you are not receiving our emails, please send an email to lwvs@lwvsacramento.org and ask us to add or update your email address.

We maintain a strict privacy policy and will not share your email address with any third party.