



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

MARCH 2008

**League of Women Voters of Placer County General Meeting**  
*Join us for a presentation by Jim McCauley*  
**Placer County Clerk-Recorder-Registrar of Voters**  
*on CURRENT ELECTION ISSUES*

**Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 6:30 – 8:30 PM**

Sierra Community College, Library/Learning Resource Center (LRC-133)

5000 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677

Email [lwwplacer@yahoo.com](mailto:lwwplacer@yahoo.com) for further information and a free parking pass

Jim McCauley has over 30 years of experience with elections and has been serving Placer County since 1987. He actively seeks new technologies for Clerk-Recorder-Elections departments in California and has implemented several unique and creative community service programs in Placer County.

**LWVSC will mark Sunshine Week, March 16-22, 2008 with:**

**Understanding the Brown Act: What Every Citizen Should Know**

**Guest Speaker: Tom Gibson**

Deputy General Counsel, California Department of Fish & Game

Formerly City Attorney for the Cities of Galt, Jackson and Clearlake

and General Counsel to El Dorado LAFCO and other local government agencies

With Introduction and Orientation to Public Meeting Agendas by Roseanne Chamberlain  
Consultant to Local Agency Formation Commissions, Formerly Executive Officer of Amador LAFCo  
and El Dorado County LAFCo. She has been an avid reader of public agency agendas for more than  
25 years.

**Tuesday March 18, 2008, 7 - 8:30 PM.**

USC Capitol Center, 1800 I Street, Sacramento 95814

**BOARD MEETING MAR. 17, AT 6:30 PM IN THE LEAGUE OFFICE**

## 2007-2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### President

Roseanna Torretto  
916-483-6545(h)  
[torretto@pacbell.net](mailto:torretto@pacbell.net)

### First Vice-President

Roseanne Chamberlain  
916-454-2358  
[roseanne.ch@gmail.com](mailto:roseanne.ch@gmail.com)

### Second Vice-President

Voters Service  
Cheryll Moore  
916-483-5524  
[geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net)

### Third Vice-President

Government  
Penny Niland  
916-498-9935  
[pniland@earthlink.net](mailto:pniland@earthlink.net)

### Secretary

Virginia Kaser  
916-442-6911x26  
[Kaser@usc.edu](mailto:Kaser@usc.edu)

### Treasurer

Vivian Skintauy  
916-991-5409  
[Vivian\\_Skintauy@comcast.net](mailto:Vivian_Skintauy@comcast.net)

### Natural Resources

Rick Bettis  
916-447-8683  
[naturalresources@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:naturalresources@lwvsacramento.org)

### Outreach

Catherine Troka  
916-446-5933  
[troka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:troka@sbcglobal.net)

### Webmaster

Donna Chipps  
[webmaster@lwvsacramento.org](mailto:webmaster@lwvsacramento.org)

### Voter Editor

Nancy Lapp  
[nlapp@csus.edu](mailto:nlapp@csus.edu)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LWVSC will mark Sunshine Week with a March 18 general meeting on the Ralph M. Brown Act, the California law which guarantees the public's right to attend and to participate in meetings of local legislative bodies. Units will discuss open government laws re public records.

The first national "Sunshine Week: Your Right to Know" was launched in March 2005 and will be celebrated in 2008 from March 16-22. Sunshine Week's intent is to raise awareness of the importance of open government to everyone in the community, not just journalists. The Sunshine Week 2008 National Dialogue will be brought to you in celebration of Sunshine Week by the [American Association of Law Libraries](#), [American Library Association](#), [Association of Research Libraries](#), [League of Women Voters](#), [National Coalition Against Censorship](#), [National Freedom of Information Coalition](#), [National Press Club](#), [OpenTheGovernment.org](#), [Special Libraries Association](#), [Sunshine Week](#), the [Project on Government Oversight \(POGO\)](#), and the [Sunlight Foundation](#).

The 2008 National Dialogue, "Government Secrecy: Censoring Your Right to Know", will take place on March 19, 2008, 1 - 2:30 PM (EDT) at the National Press Club in Washington DC and you will be able to watch the webcast for free. There will be two segments. I.) "The Secret Executive -- What Can Congress and the Public Do?" Speakers will discuss executive branch power and secrecy, congressional rights and responsibilities, the role of the courts and of the public and public interest sector in combating government secrecy. II.) "Citizen Self-Help: Finding the Information You Need." A moderator will talk with creators of websites that help the public avoid having to file official requests or go to offices and meetings to learn what our government is doing. Check for details and register for the free webcast at [OpenTheGovernment.org](http://OpenTheGovernment.org).

2008-09 Local Program Planning: At annual meeting in 2007, we adopted our issues of emphasis: voter outreach and education for the three elections in 2008, advocacy of single payer universal health care and SB 840, and global climate change education and awareness. Please bring your ideas to March units or send them directly to me.

## **SINGLE PAYER: IT'S TIME TO HAVE HOPE**

By Sara Rogers, Consultant, Health

"Politically feasible" is just another way of saying that folks are scared to stand up to insurance companies. I don't accept that. It's time to take a stand for what we really want. It's time to have hope.

- Senator Sheila Kuehl

SB 840 is alive and well in the Assembly Appropriations committee, much further along in the legislative process than it was in 2006, just before its historical passage out of both houses of the legislature and onto the Governor's desk. Legislative deadlines for passage out of fiscal committees aren't until August 15th and, between now and then, grassroots organizing and education efforts are really taking off. Every day, Senator Kuehl and her staff receive requests for presentations regarding SB 840, the truly universal healthcare bill.

On Sunday, January 27th and Monday, January 28th, the American Medical Students' Association held their hugely successful third annual rally and lobby day in Sacramento, which included a day long training that drew nearly 400 med students from all over the state. The fact that so many overworked medical students spent an entire weekend, even taking a rare day off from school, to advocate for single payer health care shows an unparalleled level of dedication and passion. AMSA students give every single payer supporter hope and inspiration as they push for passage of the bill.

Single payer advocates are also busy preparing for a historical strategy summit taking place in Los Angeles later this month that will bring together representatives from the broad coalition of organizations dedicated to bringing single payer to California. The summit demonstrates the unprecedented development of the organized and operational single payer movement necessary to bring universal health care to California. It's the kind of grassroots movement that has been largely absent in the history of health reform, and it's just one example of the changing landscape of health care politics.

On that note, my "leisure" reading lately is a book called, One Nation Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance. It chronicles the 20th century's long line of failed attempts at achieving national health insurance. There's an unmistakable pattern to each major attempt, in that there seems have been an attempt once every decade and, each time national health insurance is within our grasp, it is defeated with a capitulatory "compromise".

I couldn't help but notice that, historically, the compromises are forged by the exact same powerful interests every time, working like scavengers randomly picking through the ideas of national health insurance, with little consideration given to whether any "reform" was actually going to improve the health care system for the average American.

In fact, a century of such "health care reform" has brought our health care system to the point where

### Single Payer, continued from page 3

it is deeply fragmented, unimaginably costly and the least effective system in the entire developed world at delivering either health or care. I can't help but wonder where we might have been in terms of universal health care had proponents not forfeited their goal quite so fast.

Most striking: The grassroots role that physicians repeatedly played in defeating national health insurance. The American Medical Association functioned as an exceptionally effective grassroots movement that was embedded in every community across the nation. They organized education and lobbying campaigns against universal health care, labeling their efforts as "protecting the public health". They hired PR consultants who admitted that they were attempting to label national health insurance as "socialized medicine" for the simple reason that Americans were opposed to socialism.

The litmus test for "politically feasible" has historically been largely defined by where doctors, insurers, business and labor stood on the issue. Throughout the last century, there was no grassroots group as singularly focused on the passage of single payer health care as the physicians and insurers were opposed to it. That's changed considerably, especially in California, as the 500 or so organizations that support SB 840 continue their evolution into an effective coalition that works tirelessly (and largely under the radar of many in Sacramento) to educate and organize Californians on universal health care.

More importantly, groups that traditionally oppose single payer, like physicians, are no longer unified against it. The American College of Physicians made history last year in their endorsement of single payer and the California Medical Association includes a large and growing minority of members that strongly support single payer. The American Medical Students Association has quickly risen to become one of the most passionate and inspired groups advocating for passage of SB 840.

Another powerful provider group, the California Nurses Association has gone "all in" for single payer and is working in much the same way for single payer as the American Medical Association once worked to oppose it. Their dedication unites with that of organizations like Health Care for All - California, school employees, the League of Women Voters, retired teachers, and others who are deeply embedded in communities across the state.

The lesson that advocates of single payer should take from history is to observe how the AMA was able to defeat national health insurance through steady community education and organizing. This is why single payer has the best shot, politically, as well as on a policy basis, for winning passage. Only single-payer boasts the kind of unified and dedicated grassroots movement for something that makes large reform possible.

In the midst of an unprecedented and inspiring presidential primary, the theme for 2008 is unmistakable - it's time to have hope.

## LWVSC PARTICIPATES IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY HOUSING ELEMENT UPDATE

By Rick Bettis

The LWVSC has participated in three recent focus group meetings for the update of the Sacramento County Housing element. The housing element is part of the County General Plan. However, in accordance with State law the Housing Element must be updated every five years. The General Plan is updated much less frequently, and now being updated for the first time since 1993.

The purpose of the County Housing Element is to insure that there is a plan in place to meet the projected housing for the unincorporated area in Sacramento County. The housing needs have been estimated by the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) based on economic and population projections for the six County SACOG region.

The estimates indicate that a total 15,200 new housing units will be needed between 2006 and 2013. This need has been apportioned by income group as follows.

Group -- % of Mean Income in County	Max. Affordable Rent	Max. Affordable Purchase Price	Percent (Total Units)
Very and Extremely Low – up to 50%	\$504	\$60,450	22% (3344)
Low – up to 80%	\$840	\$100,800	15.1% (2295)
Moderate – up to 120%	\$1343	\$161,250	17.85% (2706)
Above Moderate	\$1680	\$241,800	45.1% (6855)

These values are based on a maximum of 30% of gross income being spent for housing. The mean income depends on family size. For a family of four it is estimated to be \$67,200.

The focus groups discussed strategies to meet this housing need. These included such things as:

- The conservation and rehabilitation of existing housing and neighborhoods.
- Infill in existing developed areas.
- Smaller lots and units to reduce costs.

### Housing Element article, continued from page 5

- Reduced construction cost by the use of innovated measures such as prefabrication and modular units.
- Conversion of unused or underused non-residential buildings and lots to residential uses.
- Inclusionary zoning that requires a minimum number of affordable units in all market rate developments.
- Reduce the loss of housing caused by lack of maintenance, repair and subsequent demolition.
- Financial incentives and public private partnerships.

The completed Housing element will be presented to the Board of Supervisors within the next few months. At least one Public Hearing will be held prior to adoption. More information can be found on the Sacramento County Planning Department web site under "Housing Element".

## IN MEMORIAM

### Hope Tatum

**UNIT MEETINGS:** Local program planning and open government laws re public records

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, Mar. 10 6:15 PM	Doris White 383-0189	8632 Fallbrook Way Sacramento
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, Mar. 11 9:30 A.M.	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, Mar. 11	Virginia Moose 446-7149	1312 Robertson Way Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, Mar. 11 1 P.M.	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624 (From Sheldon Rd. take Vytina one block. Left on Shasta Lily)
Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or <a href="mailto:eheser@csus.edu">eheser@csus.edu</a>			

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Ms. Jeri L. Boe

Beverly Lindsay

Jean Lukey

Geraldine Nicholson

Betty Reuben

Suzanne Ritter

Michelle Jeanine Scott

Maryann Wilhelm

Joanna Zadra

---

## VOTERS SERVICE UPDATE: 2008 ELECTIONS

By Cheryll M. Moore, Voters Service

On behalf of the LWV of Sacramento County I wish to extend a hearty thank you to all the volunteers who have participated in recent election related events and training sessions.

**Speakers Bureau:** Rick Bettis and Suzanne Phinney graciously agreed to speak to two groups who requested Pros and Cons presentations for the February 5<sup>th</sup> election ballot measures.

**On Election Day:** League members staffed the **KCRA Call 3 Problem Solvers** telephone bank which was dedicated to election questions from 5 AM to 7 PM. It was a huge success thanks to the chair Carol Moon Goldberg and the team that offered their time and talents. Team members Lola Acosta, Lanette Davies, Nancy Fox, Kirby Fukushima, Eileen Heaser, Judy Hoefling, Pat Justice, Kay Knepprath, Elaine La Rue, Elizabeth Leslie, Jane Owen, Suzanne Phinney, Ruth Range, Ilse Spivek, Harriet Taylor, Roseanna Torretto, and Fifi Zeff answered over 1,856 calls and 53 emails (compared to 1100 calls in the November 2006 general election). Anne Rudin cheered us on from the sidelines for this election and plans to answer calls next time. Contact Carol Moon Goldberg at [moonberg@msn.com](mailto:moonberg@msn.com) if you would like to volunteer for future elections.

**Training:** Kathy Souza conducted Forum Moderator training in November, and Elaine La Rue conducted Pros and Cons Speakers Training (in two separate sessions). Elaine will offer another session on **Saturday, April 26, 2008 from 9 AM to Noon**. Please RSVP to Cheryll Moore, 916-483-5524 or [geroeducator@att.net](mailto:geroeducator@att.net).



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

801 12th Street, Suite 210  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: 916-447-VOTE  
Fax: 916-447-8620  
www.lwvsacramento.org  
E-mail: lwvs@lwvsacramento.org

***MARCH 2008***

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS MAIL

**FIRST CLASS**  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 193

---

## **JOIN US IN MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!**

**We seek volunteers to distribute voter registration affidavit forms to these locations.**

- Citrus Heights Post Office (6330 Fountain Square Drive) and Citrus Heights City Hall
- North Highlands Post Office (6483 Watt Ave)
- Discovery Post Office (4700 Northgate Blvd, Suite 150, Sacramento)
- Foothill Farms Post Office (5420 Kohler Ave, East of Madison and Auburn Blvd.)

Contact Eileen Heaser, 456-2154(H) or 278-6797(W) for details. We provide three locations for volunteers to pick up the forms.

---

**RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE! [www.lwvsacramento.org](http://www.lwvsacramento.org)**