



# THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

JANUARY 2009

## January 12 and 13, 2009 LWVSC Unit Meetings

See page 7 for meeting times and locations.

RSVP to the unit contact so we can provide seating for all in attendance.

### *What do you want to see on the agenda for the League in California for 2009-2011?*

Every two years league members are invited to set the agenda for the LWVC for the upcoming biennium, keeping the work of the League a truly grassroots function. Each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of the issues where the League will focus its time, talent, and money. This is the first step in the process that ends with the adoption of program by delegates to the LWVC convention in Long Beach next May.

- Review current LWVC positions and examples of their use. Are they valid and useful? Are there gaps in existing positions? Are there positions that no longer command member understanding or agreement? Shall we retain, drop, restudy, or update a position? See pages 4-6 for the positions in brief.
- Offer recommendations for the agenda of the LWVC. On what statewide issues should the LWVC and all California local Leagues focus their time, talent, money, and reputation?
  - State Study: Are there state topics or issues that the League should study in order to adopt a position from which to take action?
  - Issues for Education and Advocacy: Where should the League focus its state agenda for the coming two years?

Visit the LWVC members only Web site Program Planning 2009-2011 page. Here you will find documentation of the program planning process, the LWVC study process, the LWVC concurrence procedure, summary and use of LWVC positions, and full wording of all the positions in *LWVC Action Policies and Procedures* with 2008 update.

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**BOARD MEETING: MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 5:30 PM, LEAGUE OFFICE**

2008-2009

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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I encourage you to attend a unit meeting this month, even if you are not a regular attendee. As a valued member of this grassroots organization, you have the opportunity to indicate the issues on which you believe the state League and all local Leagues in California should focus.

Consider where there is the most need, where we will be most effective, and what activities best serve our mission. This is what the state League board did recently in its strategic planning process. One goal is to optimize our limited resources. The board concluded that we should narrow our focus, to the extent possible, to the issues of **Democracy, Voting, and Civic Engagement**, because these are the areas in which we can have the greatest impact. On the other hand, the board respects the process of grassroots member interest in any issue that may be suitable for the league to undertake and the will of the Convention to set priorities from both a policy and a budgetary standpoint.

A group of local Leagues is encouraging members to consider a study of the state prison system. Many local leagues have studied issues surrounding jails and the justice system and are looking forward to expanding these studies to the statewide prison system. Contact me for more information.

**JO SMITH**, continued from page 3

widened its focus on history to present her a special award for her work in the area of natural history. In addition to being a gifted artist Jo was an expert bird watcher and wildlife photographer. Her concern for the human environment included extensive volunteering and support of Californians Against Waste in their effort to pass a "bottle bill" which led to the extensive recycling programs we now have.

Jo was highly respected by all who knew her including former LWV presidents and elected officials such as former Mayor Anne Rudin and County Supervisor Illa Collin, who recall her wise counsel on environmental and other issues, and her talent as an artist who prepared creative and attractive illustrations for event announcements, invitations, programs, campaign flyers, and refrigerator magnets which are cherished by all who have them.

All those who knew her will remember Jo with fond appreciation. She did her work in a quiet but very devoted manner. Her legacy will continue to benefit all, now and in the future.

## JO SMITH

By Rick Bettis

Jo Smith was a member of the League for more than 50 years. With her passing the community has lost one of its most dedicated, talented, and resourceful volunteers. She exemplified those who are not only good, but also do much good for the community and the world.

Jo was a graduate of Stanford University. She joined the LWV in Marysville in the 1950s. She vividly recalled the great flood of 1955, when Marysville was completely inundated. She and her family moved to Sacramento around 1960, where she made important contributions to the League and numerous other organizations and causes.

As a member of the League of Women Voters of California board she served as Legislative Director from 1971 through 1975. As recalled by the former LWVC professional Legislative Advocate Margaret Herman, Jo was instrumental in starting the LWVC first actual Legislative Office, a small space with a single desk and filing cabinet in the office of the Friends Committee on Legislation. She was also known for the thorough and dedicated work she did on editing and writing the LWVC “Pros and Cons” on state ballot measures. She set a standard that has helped earn the “Pros and Cons” wide usage and respect. She also started the League’s “legislative conferences” with legislative speakers on various issues.

Jo devoted much energy to environmental education and stewardship. She was a close associate of Effie Yeaw the naturalist and educator who is recognized as being the driving force that led to the creation of the American River Parkway. Jo was the co-founder of the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA), which supports and jointly operates the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Hoffman Park, providing an invaluable education resource for many thousands of youth and adults. She was instrumental the writing, editing and illustration of ARNHA publications including the “Sacramento’s Outdoor World” the acclaimed guide to the natural history of our region. Jo’s illustrations of plants, birds, mammals, invertebrates and all of the other ‘critters’ have been praised by all who have used this publication.

Jo also co-founded the Sacramento Urban Creeks Council (SUCC) which is dedicated the stewardship of the natural values of the creeks and sloughs in our area. She edited and illustrated SUCC publications such as “Dipping Into Creek” and a “Teachers Guide to Creeks”. She led the creation of “Creek Week” which includes family outdoor education programs and the presentation of a Creek Stewardship award to a local school. The week is culminated by a cleanup of over 40 creeks and sloughs by approximately 2,000 volunteers, and a Creek Celebration at which includes activities such a “junk and gunk sculpture” contest with prizes being awarded by significant local leaders such as Congresswoman Doris Matsui. Last year a nature trail along Arcade Creek was named in Jo’s honor.

Jo also supported numerous other organizations such as the Audubon Society, California Native Plant Society, Save the American River Association, American River Parkway Foundation, Sacramento Valley conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, and many more. The Sacramento County Historical Society

**SUMMARY OF LWVC POSITIONS: GOVERNMENT**

CAMPAIGN FINANCING adopted in 1973, updated in 1976

*Position in brief:* Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions that will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office.

CONSTITUTION adopted in 1957, updated in 1965-67

*Position in brief:* Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified state constitution; provisions that enable the legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly and with responsibility clearly fixed, and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state.

ELECTION SYSTEMS adopted 2001, amended by concurrence 2003.

*Position in brief:* Support election systems for executive offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM PROCESS adopted in 1984, updated in 1999

*Position in brief:* Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONSHIPS adopted in 1981

*Position in brief:* Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES adopted in 1998

*Position in brief:* Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term, assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society.

REDISTRICTING adopted in 1988; amended in 2007

*Position in brief:* Support a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. Support an independent commission as the preferred redistricting body.

STATE AND LOCAL FINANCES adopted in 1969, updated in 1975; new positions in 1976, 1977, 1981, and 1995

*Position in brief:* Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt. Support a process that maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates and tax expenditures; that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and that encourages accountability. Support an equitable, broad-based local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue, with limitations on the types of services it funds. Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, easy to understand and well publicized, with like properties treated uniformly.

VOTING RIGHTS adopted in 1972, reviewed in 1986

*Position in brief:* Support measures that will protect every citizen's right to vote and that will ensure government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate.

## SUMMARY OF LWVC POSITIONS: NATURAL RESOURCES

### AGRICULTURE adopted in 1983

*Position in brief:* Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource that must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation. Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs that include comprehensive planning, zoning measures and other preservation techniques. State policy that affects agriculture should ensure the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives coupled with penalties for noncompliance.

### AIR QUALITY adopted in 1971, updated in 1973

*Position in brief:* Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards.

### ENERGY adopted in 1978, updated in 1980 and 2006; amended in 2007

*Position in brief:* The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures.

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS adopted in 1986 and 1987

*Position in brief:* Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposures through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bioaccumulation, air pollution and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures.

### LAND USE adopted in 1975

*Position in brief:* Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern.

Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation.

### SOLID WASTE adopted in 1973

*Position in brief:* Support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials.

### TRANSPORTATION adopted in 1981, revised in 1985; new position in 1991

*Position in brief:* Support a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost effective; is safe and secure; services all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education.

### WATER adopted in 1959, updated in 1961, 1967, 1971, and 1979

*Position in brief:* Support measures that promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use.

**SUMMARY OF LWVC POSITIONS: SOCIAL POLICY****CHILD CARE** adopted in 1989

*Position in brief:* Support state and local policies, legislation and programs that meet the need for accessible, affordable, and quality child care.

**COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM** adopted in 2003

*Position in Brief:* Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning. Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs.

**EDUCATION: PRE-KINDERGARTEN THROUGH 12** adopted in 1973, updated in 1985 and 2005

*Position in brief:* Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students. Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students. Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program.

**HOUSING** adopted in 1970, updated in 1973 and 1993

*Position in brief:* Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support of measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.

**JUVENILE JUSTICE/DEPENDENCY** adopted in 1997 and 1999

*Position in brief:* Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, that serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and that rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well-being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society. Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services that work with children, youth, families and schools.

Support community efforts to provide safe supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems. Support the rights and best interests of the child in preference to those of any other individual.

**LEGAL AID** adopted in 1971, revised in 1983

*Position in brief:* Support measures that will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services.

**MENTAL HEALTH CARE** adopted in 1998

*Position in brief:* Support for an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management.

~ IN MEMORIAM ~

Judy Bramson

Jo Smith

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS**

Ben O'Brien

Pamela Morris

M. Lorraine White

**THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS**

Reiko Nagumo

**JANUARY UNIT MEETINGS**

**LWVC Program Planning**

<b>UNIT</b>	<b>DATE &amp; TIME</b>	<b>CONTACT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
<b>Mid-City</b>	Monday, January 12 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
<b>Morning Suburban</b>	Tuesday, January 13 9:15 A.M.	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael
<b>Greenhaven/ Land Park</b>	Tuesday, January 13 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento
<b>Elk Grove</b>	Tuesday, January 13 1 P.M.	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or [eheser@csus.edu](mailto:eheser@csus.edu)



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
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***JANUARY 2009***

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League of Women Voters of Sacramento County

1107 9th Street, Suite 300, 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 \$65 per year (\$35 for second member in household). 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). *Tax deductible contributions may be made payable to the "LWVSC Education Fund."*