



THE SACRAMENTO VOTER

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

MARCH 2010

Program Planning Meeting All Members Welcome

Saturday February 27, 2010, 9 AM to Noon
Arcade Library, 2443 Marconi Ave (west of Fulton Ave), Sacramento

Saturday, March 20, 2010 A Joint Public Meeting with LWV Placer County

How the State Budget Affects Local Government

9:00 AM to 12 noon

**Crossroads Community Center
6742 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights, 95610**

Guest Speakers include representatives from
the Senate Revenue & Taxation,
the Legislative Analysts' Office,
and the Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

SAVE THE DATE

Leadership Council 2010, scheduled for Sacramento Friday, May 14 through Sunday, May 16.
All interested Sacramento members are welcome to attend.

2009-2010

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**League Position on City Governance**

At the January 25th Board meeting, members voted to oppose the Government Accountability and Charter Reform Measure of 2009, introduced by Mayor Kevin Johnson and supported by Sacramentans for Accountable Government. The Board voted to join the SAVE Sacramento coalition and selected Catherine Troka as our liaison. The League's position, published earlier on our website under "Government," is included in this Voter and was shared with the Mayor, City Council and the media.

Program Planning

We remain a grass-roots organization and as announced on our website and in the January and February Voter, invite your participation Saturday February 27, 9:AM to noon at our Program Planning meeting at the Arcade Library; 2443 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento 95821, where we will identify local and national priorities for the year beginning June 2010. The results will be presented May 29 at our Annual Meeting, Casa de Los Ninos, and to the national League. We hope to see you February 27 and May 29!

Joint Public Forum with the Placer League

Saturday March 20, from 9: AM to noon our two Leagues are hosting a public forum to educate voters about the state budget and how it affects local government. Invited speakers include staff of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, and the League of Women Voters of California. The event will be held at Crossroads Community Center, 6742 Auburn Blvd., Citrus Heights, 95610. Plan to attend, bring your neighbor and questions.

Membership

Building our organization, our membership committee meets monthly and welcomes your ideas for extending membership to energetic women and men who share our commitment to informed participation in government and influencing public policy through non-partisan education and advocacy. Co-Chairs Catherine Troka and Kathleen Chovan can be contacted at 447-8683.

CLIMATE CHANGE: SOME BASICS

By Rick Bettis, Natural Resources Director

Using geologic evidence such as trees, sediment, coral and ice cores scientists have able to estimate global temperatures along with greenhouse gas concentrations for the past 350,000 years. Climate change has occurred due to such natural causes as volcanic eruptions, changes in ocean circulation, solar energy variations, and earth orbital variations. However nearly all credible scientific experts have definitely concluded that the changes for the past period of more than 100 years since the Industrial Revolution are result of the accumulation of Greenhouse Gases (GHG) in the atmosphere.

1. Sunlight brings energy into the climate system, most of which is absorbed into the earth of oceans.
2. Heat (infrared energy) is radiated outward from the warmed earth.
3. Some of the infrared energy is absorbed by the GHG and is retained in the atmosphere and further warms the earth, while some is emitted into space.

Higher concentrations of GHG trap more infrared energy than what occurs naturally and further warms the earth.

Carbon Dioxide that results from the burning of fossil fuels is the most prevalent GHG. Due to its chemical molecular structure, Methane, which results primarily from animal wastes and occurs in much smaller quantities, actually has eight times the GHG effect as does the same volume of CO₂. Scientist have estimated that the total GHG effect is made up of Carbon Dioxide-56%, Methane-17%, Chloroflourocarbons-13%, Ozone-7%, and Nitrous Oxides-6%.

Another significant factor is the “albedo effect,” which is the measure of a how much infrared energy is reflected from the earth surface. Fresh snow and ice have a reflectivity of 0.9, while for dark surfaces it can be as low as 0.04. The average for the earth is 0.3. Therefore the warming is accelerated when snow and ice melt.

It is important to note that living plants, such as trees, can store or “sequester” GHG by means of the photosynthesis process, reducing GHG accumulations and warming.

The current GHG concentration in the atmosphere is 380 parts per million. It has been estimated that lowering this concentration to 350-ppm is needed to stabilize the earth’s temperature at current levels, while limiting the concentration to a probably more realistic 450- ppm will limit the temperature rise to approximately 2 degrees.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY POSITION ON CITY GOVERNANCE

COUNCIL-MANAGER FOR SACRAMENTO: Sacramento, as a city of neighborhoods is better suited for a collaborative council-manager form of government, where the mayor participates with the council as a citywide representative. This structure gives the public equal access to the mayor and council. It is important for the both mayor and council members to hear public testimony.

IS CHANGE NECESSARY? It is reasonable for a city to change its form of government only when there is a clear body of evidence that shows there are structural problems, which can be solved by altering the form of government, and that such change will address demonstrated problems

APPOINTMENT POWERS: The council, including the mayor, should have the power to appoint and remove the charter officers: the city manager; city attorney; city clerk and city treasurer. It is important that these officers are chosen for their professional qualifications and experience.

BUDGET PROCESS: Changes in the budget process can be made to incorporate best practices without changing the city charter. The public should be engaged early in the priority setting stage of the budget process as well as in ongoing deliberations.

UNDELEGATED POWERS: The council should continue to hold the powers not explicitly delegated

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please fill out this form, include a check or money order and mail to:

League of Women Voters of Sacramento County
1107 9th Street Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Individual Membership	\$65.00
Family Membership (two adults at same address)	\$100.00
Student Membership	\$15.00
Supported Membership (\$15 minimum)	_____

Assistance requested from Membership Support Fund; Please fill out amount enclosed

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

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).

CHILDREN'S ADVOCATES' ROUNDTABLE WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE 2010 BUDGET?

By Alice Ginosar

January 28, 2010. Cathy Senderling-McDonald, County Welfare Directors Association of California, said the current budget deficit is almost \$20 billion. A memo from her organization to all county social service directors and fiscal officers outlined the Governor's Proposed Budget for 2010-11 and listed reductions to Healthy Families Program eligibility from the current 250 % to 200 % of family income, which would effectively cut about 200,000 children from health insurance in California.

A recent Public Policy Institute survey reported that 60% of Californians believe that we can cut the budget and not affect services. Part of that survey reports 60 % of Californians would support tax increases for schools.

Services for children are being cut all over California. Social workers from all counties have been cut from local budgets; social workers who investigate child abuse lack the funding to investigate marginal abuse and neglect cases. Without new revenues, the Children's Advocates Roundtable believes California services are in a grave financial situation.

A Social Services consultant for the Senate Budget Committee said that the Governor is counting on \$7 billion from the federal government. If that money does not materialize, then the Governor's budget includes the following cuts that could be "triggered" in the likely event that the federal government fails to provide funding:

Elimination of Cal Works; Elimination of In Home Support Services (IHSS); Elimination of the Healthy Families Program; Reducing Medi-Cal eligibility

This consultant confirmed that the state budget is now undergoing modification in the Special Session. The cuts proposed for Cal Works will affect over 1 million children; monthly grants could be cut by over 15% (reducing grants to \$585 per month for a family of 3--same as 20 years ago). The amount for child care where the parent is working could also be cut.

Some of the Governor's proposed budget "solutions" could involve fund "shifts" or "redirection", i.e. use of Proposition 10 (1998 initiative creating Early Child Development Programs) funding be redirected from children's services age birth to 5 years to general health and human services for children. The statewide ballot initiative 1D in the May 19, 2009 special election doing this was opposed by the League of Women Voter and defeated by the voters.

The consultant for the Assembly Budget Committee advised that despite the Governor's promises in the State of the State address, there are \$2.4 billion cuts in K-12 Education in his proposed budget.

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The consultant said that in his view, much of the budget crisis in California is due to the required 2/3 vote to pass a budget, and in the last fiscal year there was an “emergency mentality” in the Legislature to speed up the decision-making process. This year budget consultants and legislators want a more deliberative approach.

A representative from the non-profit California Budget Project said that until now most of the \$30 billion cuts in services from last year’s budget (2008-09) affected primarily lower income residents. However, with current cuts in the new fiscal year the middle class will be affected; it will be most dramatic when school opens this fall and parents find their children enrolling in kindergarten will be in classes of 30 for the first time in years; no longer will K classes be limited to 20 students. Further, this speaker said that the Corrections budget is “ripe for cuts,” and urged voters to pressure Democratic legislators to consider redirecting some of the Corrections budget to fund needed social and educational programs that have been severely cut.

The attendees of this Roundtable were reminded that we all have the power to influence our own legislators during this critical time by writing letters or sending emails stating generally stating that we preservation of vital social and education programs.

Note: Alice Ginosar, member of the League of Women Voters of Sacramento County attends these monthly meetings as an Observer and shares her meeting notes with the Chair, League of Women Voters of California Social Policy, Education: Pre-Kindergarten Through 12.

VOTER AFFIDAVITS AND VOLUNTEERS

By Eileen Heaser

Although the Registrar of Voters’ Office will no longer reimburse the LWVSC for distributing voter affidavits, the current plan is to continue distributing the forms as a community service. Accounting for the distributed forms will be less burdensome. Only record a total number of forms you distributed to a specific site [not the range of numbers as noted on each form], e.g. 1000 forms to P.O. X; 600 forms to P.O. Y, etc. In December please send me the total number of forms you distributed to each site.

Quarterly reports are no longer necessary. Do not send totals to Judy Hoefling or to the LWVSC Office. Send to my e-mail as listed below or home address listed in the directory

I will store a few boxes of forms at my house. HOWEVER, feel free to go directly to the Registrar’s Office to pick up boxes of forms. Each box contains 1000 forms. The Office is at 7000 65th St. in the Florin Center Shopping area. The Office is just north of the Burlington Coat store and across 65th St. from Sears. From Highway 99 south from Sacramento, exit at Florin Road East and make a left at the

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65thSt. signal. Telephone ahead and the boxes will be ready for pickup: Debbie Woods, 875-5827 or 875-5854 or WoodsD@saccounty.net

If anyone is interested in volunteering, the following post offices are available: **Discovery Northgate, Centre Branch Country Club, Foothill Farms, Arden, Town & Country, Citrus Heights.** Contact me if you would like to volunteer or for clarification: 278-67997 (w) or 456-2154 (h) or eheser@csus.edu.

Thanks to all the volunteers for your service.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Arline Prigoff

Phillip Reilly

Carol Walker

MARCH UNIT MEETINGS

A message from the Climate Change Committee: The LWVSC Climate Change Committee has been working for the past few months on this very important issue. We will attend Unit meetings in March and April with valuable information for you on this critical issue that affects all of us and all of our children and grandchildren! We hope to see you then!

UNIT	DATE & TIME	CONTACT	LOCATION
Mid-City	Monday, March 8 6:15 PM	Tom Swift 453-8707	5308 Shepard Avenue Sacramento, CA 95819
Morning Suburban	Tuesday, March 9 9:15 AM	Mary McCullough 967-7382	2426 Garfield Ave. Carmichael 95608
Greenhaven/ Land Park	Tuesday, March 9 9:30 AM	Mary Hopkins 422-6958	45 Sunlit Circle Sacramento 95831
Elk Grove	Tuesday, March 9 1 PM	Pat Justice 391-9439	8622 Shasta Lily Drive Elk Grove 95624

Eileen Heaser, unit coordinator, 916-456-2154 or eheser@csus.edu



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OF SACRAMENTO COUNTY

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MARCH 2010

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY LEAGUE!
90 YEARS OF MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK**

In 1920, after a 72-year struggle, and when passage of the 19th amendment appeared to be imminent, members of the National American Woman Suffrage Association met to form the League of Women Voters. Carrie Chapman Catt first proposed the creation of a League to "finish the fight" and to work to end all discrimination against women. While initially concerned with the status and rights of women, the League of Women Voters gradually expanded its interests to include issues affecting the whole community.

Known widely for our voter education efforts, this non-partisan, government watchdog group has been an American institution since 1920. Today, the League works to effect change on a variety of issues including health care, climate change, election and campaign finance reforms, land use and education.

More than 850 state and local Leagues across the country will celebrate this milestone birthday throughout 2010.

Observe the founding of the League of Women Voters by honoring your favorite woman, past or present, with a donation in her name. Visit our website at <http://www.lwvsacramento.org>