

# The Palo Alto *VOTER*

The LWV of Palo Alto

October 2010

Phyllis Cassel, President ; Virginia Pirrotta, Membership;  
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## CAMPAIGN ISSUE

### League Positions on State Ballot Measures

For explanation of the state ballot recommendations, please refer to the September issue of *The Palo Alto VOTER* or go online to <http://ca.lwv.org/action/prop1011/2010-11-02-the-league-recommends.pdf>

PROP 18 Water Bond Measure	REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT
PROP 19 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana	NO POSITION
PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts	OPPOSE
PROP 21 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs	NEUTRAL
PROP 22 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds	NEUTRAL
PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards	OPPOSE
PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act	SUPPORT
PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget	SUPPORT
PROP 26 "Polluter Protection"	OPPOSE
PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting	STRONG OPPOSE

### League Positions on Local Ballot Measures

For explanation of the local ballot recommendations, please refer to page 4 & 5 of this issue.

Measure A	Santa Clara County Children's Health Protection	SUPPORT
Measure B	Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority	NEUTRAL
Measure C	Santa Clara Valley Water District	NEUTRAL
Measure E	Foothill-De Anza College District	SUPPORT
Measure R	City of Palo Alto—Fire Department Personnel	OPPOSE
Measure S	City of Palo Alto—General Municipal Elections	OPPOSE



**Election Day is  
November 2, 2010**



*The League is a broadly based, nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and involved participation in government through voters service, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*

*The League welcomes articles. Please submit them to: [lwvpaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpaoffice@gmail.com). Deadline is the first Monday after the first Tuesday of each month.*

# President's Message

At our August Summer Social we told the story, "Failure is Impossible: Women's Struggle for the Right to Vote." Everyone had a word to say and no

one missed a cue! Virginia Pirrotta stood in for Alice Paul as the narrator. Most of you had no idea that you were our special guests when you came, but played right along. We thank James Sundback Moore who played the young Tennessee legislator, Harry Burn, who made that last critical yes vote, and Larry Lovercheck who played President Woodrow Wilson. Our storytelling was an adaptation from a skit written by Rosemary H. Knower for the National Archives commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The adaptations were taken from a variety of readings that came across my desk over the last few months. Special thanks go to The Garden Court Hotel for hosting us. Thanks also go to Geri Stewart who much to my surprise told the tale of how men were granted the right to vote by the League of Women Voters. (Men were welcomed into membership in 1974.)

Enough of where we have been! It's election season! We have two Candidates Forums. The first is 2-4 PM September 25 for the US Congressional District 14 and the California Assembly District 21. The second is October 16, 3 PM at the Los Altos Public Library for the Santa Clara Valley Water District #7 (please see page 3).

Then there will be two general meetings. By the time you receive this *VOTER* we may have already held the meeting on Stanford Hospital Expansion. If not, put down everything and run over to Lucie Stern Community Room Tuesday September 21, 7-9 PM to gather all the details. On October 6 we go to Los Altos Public Library to learn from an expert panel "What does the Santa Clara Valley Water District do for us anyway?" Plans are underway for two Pro and Con meetings for the ballot measures (please see page 3). Keep an eye on our website for the latest details for these meetings. Then come out to register students at Gunn and Paly High Schools. If this is not enough there are also several meetings on the New Health Care Act, the CA State government and CA budget sponsored by other Leagues in the area - all in the next three weeks.

In addition to educating yourself and friends, voting, and encouraging others to vote, there are ballot measures. I hope you will agree with our positions and take action. Write letters, talk with friends, and VOTE!

Merry Election Season! Phyllis Cassel ■



At the Summer Social-  
Trina Lovercheck,  
Ellen Forbes &  
Virginia Pirrotta

With regret I must inform you that Virginia Pirrotta, Membership Committee Co-chair, has resigned from the board due to illness. We wish her well on her recovery and will miss her wise counsel and the humor that she adds to our work. She promises that she will stay active with our League.

Phyllis Cassel

## LWV of Palo Alto: Officers, Directors, Chairpersons, (650) 327-9148

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*The VOTER is online at [www.lwvpaloalto.org](http://www.lwvpaloalto.org)*

## Events page



### **Water: A Public Policy and Environmental Dilemma**

Wednesday, October 6 at 7 pm  
Los Altos Library  
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos

#### Panelists:

Cathy Lazarus --Retired Director of Public Works, City of Mountain View

Susanne Wilson -Chair of the Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) Redistricting Committee

Terry Trumbull - Environmental Studies Professor

The SCVWD impacts your life everyday. Its mandate is to provide us with clean, reliable water, and flood protection and to ensure healthy creeks and ecosystems. It is governed by seven directors. On November 2 you will be asked to elect a director to represent our district to this board.

Do you know the issues? The future of water supply in California is precarious with aging infrastructure, continued urban growth, the effects of climate change, minimal conservation and other environmental concerns. Locally, the 2008-2009 Santa Clara County Civil Grand Jury Report and recent articles in the San Jose Mercury News have been critical of how the Water District has been governed. Now is your chance to learn what the issues are and to judge for yourself. Your vote for a director from District 7 will be important. Make yours a more informed vote in November.

The League of Women Voters has put together a panel to discuss water issues as they relate to our community and the Santa Clara Valley Water District. ■



### **Candidates Debate Santa Clara Valley Water District Board District 7**

Saturday, October 16, 3:00 pm  
Los Altos Library  
13 South San Antonio Road, Los Altos

Meet and hear invitees Lou Becker and Brian Schmidt express their views. Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Los Altos/Mountain View Area, League of Women Voters of Palo Alto, League of Women Voters of Cupertino/Sunnyvale and the Los Altos Library.

For more information: 650-941-4846. ■



### **Speaker Training Pros & Cons**

Tuesday, September 28, 7:15 pm  
League Office Atrium  
953 Industrial Ave., Palo Alto

- Hone your message with training for effective speaker presentation.
- Review of State and Local Measures.

Please join us! For more information, please contact Carol Bechtold at (650)327-9148 or [lwvpaoffice@gmail.com](mailto:lwvpaoffice@gmail.com).



### **Pros & Cons Learn about Ballot Measures**

Monday, October 11, 7 pm  
Channing House  
850 Webster Street, Palo Alto

and

Friday, October 15, 2 pm  
Avenidas  
450 Bryant Street, Palo Alto

Come and learn more about state and local ballot measures. ■



### **Peninsula Chapter of the World Affairs Council**

Wednesday, October 13th  
Refreshments: 7 pm; Program: 7:30 - 9 pm  
Los Altos Youth Center  
1 South San Antonio Rd., Los Altos

LWV members and friends are invited to a lecture, entitled *The state of U.S. - Mexico Relations: Immigration, Drugs, and Electoral Politics* with Alex Saragoza, Associate Professor of Chicano/Latino Studies, University of California, Berkeley. Free Admission. For information, call Carol Stevens (650) 494-0757. ■

## **Why the League Supports Ballot Measure A - Santa Clara County Children's Health Care Protection**

Ten years ago, the Children's Health Initiative (CHI) was created with broad-based support from business, neighborhoods and the health community. The program proved successful in improving children's health. The program also leveraged millions in federal and state resources for Santa Clara County (\$24 million annually).

However, the CHI is now in jeopardy. The program depends upon funding through local public and private contributions. In recent years, funding has collapsed and thousands of children are being turned away.

To support the future of this program, the Board of Supervisors approved a local parcel tax that would create a sustainable source of funding. The fee on all parcels will be \$29 per year and the sunset provision is ten years. No funds will be spent on administrative salaries and an independent oversight committee will ensure that funds are properly allocated.

The tax is expected to generate \$13.5 - \$14 million annually to sustain the program. The program will provide medical, dental and vision benefits for all children up to age 19 who are living in Santa Clara County, and whose families earn up to 300% (\$66,150 for a family of four) of the Federal Poverty Level, and who are not otherwise eligible to obtain coverage.

The League has strong positions supporting this measure.

LWVUS Early Intervention for Children at Risk:  
as Adopted by the 1994 Convention:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that early intervention and prevention measures are effective in helping children reach their full potential. The League supports policies and programs at all levels of the community and government that promote the well being, encourage the full development and ensure the safety of all children.

LWVC State and Local Finances

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 which emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; which include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt.

*Submitted by the editor* ■

## **Why the League is Neutral on Measure B**

The amount of money allocated for transportation maintenance and repairs has always been less than what is needed and the situation has become worse with current budget problems. SB83 (Hancock) was passed in 2009 which authorizes a countywide transportation planning agency to impose after a majority vote an annual fee of up to \$10 on motor vehicles registered in a county for transportation related programs and projects.

Using the authority granted under this measure, on June 3, 2010, the VTA Board of Directors authorized placing a \$10 vehicle registration fee on the November 2, 2010 ballot to pay for local transportation improvements throughout Santa Clara County. This fee is expected to generate approximately \$14 million annually by placing this \$10 fee on each motor vehicle registered in Santa Clara County. The measure requires a simple majority vote to pass.

If approved by voters in November, the Voter Registration Fee (VRF) will provide a variety of transportation improvements, especially pothole repair, traffic control signals, safety improvements and automobile-related environmental mitigations. As an added benefit, this revenue may be used as matching funds for federal, state and regional transportation grants which could leverage state and federal money for additional transportation improvements in the county.

All of the revenue collected through the VRF will remain in the county with the vast majority distributed to the individual cities helping fund their highest priority roadway improvements. The VTA Board has also adopted an expenditure plan to detail project eligibility and distribution. The plan will be audited annually and periodically reviewed by the Board.

Most of the League Positions in this area relate to transportation systems rather than specific projects although, in the long run, adequate systems are an important and necessary part of being able to provide transportation improvements including maintenance and repairs.

*Submitted by Irene Sampson*

*(Editor's note: The LWV of Palo Alto voted to support this measure. However, the County League remained neutral and we are obligated to follow suit.)* ■

## **Measure C - Santa Clara Valley Water District—Neutral**

Measure C sets a maximum of three four-year terms for the Board of Directors of the Santa Clara County Water District. A director may not be reelected for four years following the completion of the third term. Term limits start with the 2010 election, and the term limits proposed are the same as the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors.

Assembly Bill 466 which passed in 2009 reshaped the Water District Board by establishing seven districts of equal population starting with the Election of 2010. Currently the water district terms are four years which expire on even-numbered years. There are no term limits and some current members have served for 20 years.

The national League of Women Voters has a position against term limits, feeling that the voters should decide when a term should end. It was determined at convention that this position may be used at local and state levels. There have been consistent concerns, however, about the basic governance of the SCC Water Board and recommendations that this Board be forced into some turnover. A 12-year maximum time seems reasonable to develop skilled board members and would not engender a wholesale change of membership at any one time. The League felt that there are advantages and disadvantages to both concepts and chose to stay neutral. The measure requires a simple majority to pass.

*Submitted by Phyllis Cassel* ■

## **The League of Santa Clara County Endorses Measure E for Foothill and De Anza Colleges**

Community colleges have never been so important or in demand. UC and CSU are turning away students and fees are increasing. Foothill and De Anza are the only affordable and accessible options for many students.

State funding reductions have led to more than \$20 million in budget cuts at Foothill and De Anza. Many courses have been eliminated along with hundreds of faculty and staff positions. This year, thousands of students were unable to get classes they needed. With ongoing state cuts, this problem will only get worse.

Measure E will allow Foothill College and De Anza College to provide the courses and training students need to transfer to four-year universities and compete for jobs.

Every penny from Measure E will benefit our local colleges. No funds can be taken by the State or used for administrator salaries. An oversight committee will ensure funds are used properly.

*Measure E—continued on page 6*

## **Why LWVPA opposes local Ballot Measures R and S**

The word “position” is a powerful one for the League of Women Voters. It certainly does not refer to a whim opinion the board might assume on any particular issue that may arise or even to the way the organization may stand on an individual measure before voters. Rather, it refers to consensus positions that have been reached at the conclusion of, and based on, past in-depth studies conducted on categories of issues. The LWVPA membership handbook lists the basic “positions” that the local League has reached through this careful process of study over the years. They fall under the broad rubrics of City Government (seven position topics), Social Policy (five), and Natural Resources (eight).

Whenever the League reaches consensus after a study, it specifies detailed Objectives in “Support of” and “Opposition to” the basic position printed in the directory. When your board needs to decide what stand to take regarding any local ballot measure that may arise, it looks to both the basic statement(s) and the objectives for guidance.

There are four stands the board may take on a measure: Support, Oppose, Neutral (when there are strong positions—each reached after past study—both in favor of and against the proposal at hand), or No Position (when the proposal is on a topic the League has never studied). In the November 2010 election, Palo Alto faces two ballot measures. To decide what stand to take on each, the board examined our local positions. These are the results.

### ***Measure R: Palo Alto Charter Amendment Fire department initiative—OPPOSE***

LWVPA’s basic City Government support statement regarding Charter (the first of our five City Government topics) reads “Support of the principles of the charter of the City of Palo Alto in effect July 1968, and the Council-Manager form of government as embodied therein.” The League believes that under Palo Alto’s type of government, decisions should be made by the City Council whenever feasible.

### ***Measure S: Palo Alto Consolidate local elections with general elections OPPOSE***

Again under the Charter section of our City Government position, one of our Objectives explicitly states LWVPA’s “Opposition to” “Any change in Palo Alto’s election date to coincide with any partisan election.”

*Submitted by Ellen Forbes* ■



## August 19 Board Summary

At its August 19 meeting, your board:

- elected Liza Taft to the board.
- voted to co-sponsor:
  - 1) a Candidates Forum for US Senate seat with the Media Center
  - 2) an Oct. 6 Water District Information Forum being sponsored by the LA-MV League
  - 3) an Oct. 16 Candidates Forum for District 7 of the SC Valley Water District.
- took the following stands on upcoming ballot measures:
  - C.** Santa Clara Valley Water District – term limits of 3 terms (4 years each) - Oppose
  - E.** Foothill/DeAnza Community College District - \$69 parcel tax - Support
  - R.** Palo Alto Charter Amendment - Fire department initiative - Oppose
  - S.** Palo Alto – Consolidate local elections with general elections - Oppose.
- postponed decisions on two more ballot measures until more information was available:
  - A.** Santa Clara County Children’s Health Protection - \$29 Parcel tax
  - B.** Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority - \$10 vehicle registration fee.
- approved the County Council’s Smart Voter questions for SC Valley Water District candidates.
- learned that Veronica Tincher will produce the Voters Guide once she has received all the necessary information.

*Both Board Summaries submitted by Ellen Forbes ■*



## September Board Summary

At its Sept. 7 meeting, your board:

- voted to SUPPORT Measure A: Santa Clara County Children’s Health Protection (\$29 parcel tax)
- voted to SUPPORT Measure B: Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (\$10 vehicle registration fee)
- reconsidered its original position of Opposition to Measure C: Santa Clara Valley Water District term limits, changing to a NEUTRAL stand
- learned that LWVPA will do voter registration at Paly Oct. 5-6 and at Gunn Oct. 6-7
- received a report that the Junior League has asked us to do a presentation for their membership on Oct. 13 on the topic of “What’s Voting All About?”
- heard that this year’s holiday luncheon will be on Dec. 12
- Doris offered to make the presentation at the Junior League. Doris offered to moderate the Sept 25 Candidates Forum and the board accepted.
- congratulated Betty Gerard on her excellent publicity for both our Summer Social and the League’s pre-election work. ■



## Volunteer at the Polls on Election Day!

**Stipends—Inspectors: \$150.00 to \$180.00      Clerks: \$95.00 to \$125.00**

The Inspector supervises the Precinct Board, performs all election officer duties, is responsible for pick-up & inventory of election supplies, setting up the polling place, ensures all closing procedures are followed and Ballots & election supplies are returned to the receiving center. The Clerk can perform any or all of the election officer duties and assist the Inspector.

Election Officers must be at least 18 years old, a US citizen, and a registered voter.

[Online EO Application](https://eforms62.sccgov.org/lfsserver/ElectionOfficerApplication) at <https://eforms62.sccgov.org/lfsserver/ElectionOfficerApplication>

High school students must be at least 16 years old, a US citizen, and have a GPA of 2.5 or higher.

More information at

<http://www.sccgov.org/portal/site/rov/agencychp?path=/v7/Registrar%20of%20Voters%20%28DEP%29/Students> ■

*Measure E—continued from page 5* Foothill and De Anza rank among the best community colleges in the nation. We rely on them for healthcare professionals to serve our aging population and for skilled workers to fuel our economy. For many students, Foothill and De Anza are a stepping-stone to top universities. Measure E will protect the quality, affordability and accessibility of our colleges.

Please join us in supporting this important measure. *Submitted by Ginny Lear ■*



We would like to thank the following people for making the assembly and

delivery of the August *VOTER* possible:

**Diana Steeples, Geri Stewart, Isabel Arabian, Janet Creelman, Leila Shohet, Vivian Blomenkamp & Mitzi Henderson , organizer.**

Thank you **Sally Probst** and **James G. Moore** for proofreading the *VOTER*. ■

## Welcome to the League!

**Rhoda Bergen  
Terry Root**

We are delighted to have you as members. ■

## We'll miss you!

**Sandy Eakins** has moved and transferred to the Oakland League. We wish her good luck and look forward to seeing her at area meetings. ■



The League of Women Voters , born out of suffrage, now educates and advocates. Anyone of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.



Tony Ridder, CEO and Chairman of the board of Knight Ridder, presented Smart Voter Director Trudell Een with the Tech Museum Laureate Award on October 15, 2003.

## Condolences to the Family of Trudell Een, 1950 - 2010

Trudell Elaine Een, 60, passed away with grace and peace at home with her family in San Jose, CA on Thursday, August 5, 2010.

In 1989 she won a state grant to begin a recycling pilot program for her township, creatively enlisting students as advocates to gain community-wide acceptance. The pilot's success led to rural Minnesota's first permanent recycling program.

In 1996 she became President of the LWV of San Jose/Santa Clara and a founder of SmartVoter.org, a one-stop source for voter information online. As Project Director, she championed the use of the website to support elections and oversaw its expansion from two counties in Silicon Valley to twenty five counties across California and several more in New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. Smart Voter won international recognition as a Stockholm Challenge finalist in 1999 and again in 2002; a year later it became a laureate of the Knight Ridder Equality Award which Trudell accepted from CEO Tony Ridder at a Tech Museum Awards gala attended by Silicon Valley business leaders and delegates from the United Nations. Trudell received a Women of Achievement Award from The Women's Fund in 2001 for her key role in the success of Smart Voter. In 2009 she was honored at the LWV San Jose/Santa Clara Spring Luncheon where she received an Excellence Award from her peers and was presented with a commemorative plaque in recognition of her outstanding service to the League and San Jose by Mayor Chuck Reed.

Her family remains ever grateful for the outpouring of love from friends and family which supported her and them throughout these final years, filling her last memories with a tenderness that she cherished. ■

It's easy to join the LWV —Do it now! You will be glad you did.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: National, State, Bay Area and Palo Alto

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (evening) \_\_\_\_\_ e:mail \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership: \$70.00 Additional membership, same address: \$35.00

Mail check to LWV, 953 Industrial Ave., Suite 113, Palo Alto, CA 94303

Membership dues to the LWV are not tax deductible.

Men are encouraged to join.

Dues grants are available.

For information, call Membership Chair

**Virginia Pirrotta**  
(650) 327-9148

**League of Women Voters of Palo Alto**  
**953 Industrial Avenue, Suite 113**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94303**  
**(650) 327-9148**

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<p><b>CALENDAR</b> is constantly updated at  <a href="http://lwvpaloalto.org/Calendar.html">http://lwvpaloalto.org/Calendar.html</a></p> <p><b>September</b></p> <p><b>25 Sat</b> 2-4 pm. Candidates Forum. Unitarian Church,  505 E. Charleston, PA</p> <p><b>27 Mon</b> 7:30 pm. New Era in Health Care. Saratoga  Library, 13650 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga</p> <p><b>29 Wed</b> 7-9 pm. Teen Justice. Los Altos High School Thea-  tre, 201 Almond Ave., Los Altos</p> <p><b>October</b></p> <p><b>5 Tue</b> 7:15 pm. Board Meeting, Karen Sundback</p> <p><b>6 Wed</b> 7 pm. Santa Clara Valley Water District Forum.  See page 3</p> <p><b>11 Mon</b> Noon. VOTER deadline.</p> <p><b>16 Sat</b> 3 pm. Santa Clara Valley Water District Candidate  Debate. See page 3</p> <p><b>22 Fri</b> 9:15 am. VOTER mailing, Channing House</p>	<p><b>UNITED STATES</b></p> <p><b>President Obama</b>.....(202) 456-1414  Send e-mail messages to- <a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/">http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/</a></p> <p><b>Senator Feinstein</b>.....(415) 393-0707  Send e-mail-<a href="http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUS.EmailMe">http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUS.EmailMe</a></p> <p><b>Senator Boxer</b>.....(415) 403-0100  Send e-mail - <a href="http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm">http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm</a></p> <p><b>Rep. Anna Eshoo</b>.....(650) 323-2984  Send e-mail - <a href="http://eshoo.house.gov/">http://eshoo.house.gov/</a></p> <p><b>CALIFORNIA</b></p> <p><b>Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger</b> .....(415)703-2218  Send e-mail messages via website - <a href="http://gov.ca.gov/interact">http://gov.ca.gov/interact</a></p> <p><b>Senator Joe Simitian</b> .....(650) 688-6384  Send e-mail messages via website-<a href="http://www.senatorsimitian.com/main/contact">http://www.senatorsimitian.com/main/contact</a></p> <p><b>Assemblyman Ira Ruskin</b> .....(650) 691-2121  Send e-mail -<a href="http://legplcms01.lc.ca.gov/PublicL/CMS/ContactPopup.aspx?district=AD21&amp;">http://legplcms01.lc.ca.gov/PublicL/CMS/ContactPopup.aspx?district=AD21&amp;</a></p> <p><b>SANTA CLARA COUNTY</b></p> <p><b>Supervisor Liz Kniss</b> .....(650) 965-8737  Send e-mail -<a href="mailto:liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org">liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org</a></p> <p><b>LWVC GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT</b>  Locate your elected officials with your street address  <a href="http://www.guidetogovernment.org/">http://www.guidetogovernment.org/</a></p>
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