



San Diego VOTER

Vol. 70 No. 8

October 2006

October Unit Meetings: An Astounding Election!

Don't let this election sneak up on you! Come to hear about the ballot issues at your Unit meeting. Urge your friends and families to come too – all meetings are open to the public. Some Units have been moved to public libraries to accommodate more people.

The ballot measures are briefly described on pages 2 and 4.

The Pro and Con speaker at the Unit meetings will provide a nonpartisan presentation describing the ballot measures' proposals and give the arguments to support and oppose them.

This is an incredibly important election! Start reading, clipping, and talking about it! Be sure to come to one of these meetings and bring your friends! The times and locations are listed on page 6.

The list of ballot measures on pages 2 and 4 actually gives the League's recommendations on most, but not all, of the ballot measures based on League positions.

Margaret Stevenson, Chair, LWVSD Speakers Bureau

Be an Advocate for Good Government! Vote With the League on November 7!

**Announcing!
League of Women Voters
Annual Holiday Party**

**Thursday,
December 7
5:30p.m.**

**Joan Kroc Institute
for Peace and Justice**

Be sure to ask your favorite vendors to contribute and save your nicest items for the **Silent Auction**, an important and FUN part of the event!

Because of the great interest in Proposition C, "Managed Competition," LWVSD and the Center for Policy Initiatives are co-sponsoring an important luncheon event
**"Privatization or Partnership:
The Path to Real Reform"**

Dr. Elliot Sclar

Professor of Urban Planning and Public Affairs
Director, Urban Planning Program,
Columbia University

Andrea Tevlin,

Independent Budget Analyst, City of San Diego

Tuesday, October 17

Watch you mail for a flyer with details!

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October 2006 Volume 70, No. 8
San Diego Voter is published monthly except
June, August and December
Subscription: \$26 per year
Published at League of Women Voters of San Diego
4901 Morena Blvd., Building 100, Suite 104,
San Diego, CA 92117.

Contributions may be made to the League of Women Voters of San Diego for advocacy and administrative work, or to the tax-deductible League of Women Voters of San Diego Education Fund for voter service and educational activities.

For information, contact the League office at
(858) 483-8696.

“The League of Women Voters Recommends the Following:”

↑ **YES ON PROPOSITION 1B -- Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006**

Part of the bond package developed to help rebuild California's infrastructure. This bond act would raise \$19 billion for transportation improvements.

↑ **YES ON PROPOSITION 1C -- Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.**

A bond measure to finance housing-related programs, brownfield cleanup, and parks related to infill development. The League has long been concerned about providing adequate housing.

↑ **YES ON PROPOSITION 1D -- Education Facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006**

Would fund new school construction, modernization, relief of overcrowding, and other school infrastructure needs. The League supports improving California's educational infrastructure.

↑ **YES ON PROPOSITION 1E -- Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.**

Will provide funds for flood protection, levee protection in the San Francisco Delta, and storm water management. The League supports protecting our existing water supply infrastructure.

↑ **YES ON PROPOSITION 84 -- Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds. Initiative Statute**

This initiative continues the League's past support of efforts to insure that California has adequate water supplies. This initiative would fund projects for safe drinking water, flood control, protection of rivers, lakes, streams, forest and wildlife conservation, and coastal protection and state parks.

(continued on page 4)

How Safe Is Your Vote? The Pros and Cons of Electronic Voting

The County League of Women Voters along with the California Protection Network are sponsoring a panel discussion of this issue on Wednesday, October 25th at 6:00 p.m. at the San Diego County Office of Education, Joe Rindone Regional Technology Center. The address is 6401 Linda Vista Rd., 92111. A map and directions are at www.sdcoe.net. or call Beryl at 858-459-4406.

This meeting is open to the public – bring your friends.

No reservations are necessary. You can confirm speakers by checking the website www.lwvsandiego.org or by calling Beryl.

Join us on Wednesday, October 25, for a lively discussion of this timely and thought-provoking subject!

The County of San Diego has signed a contract with the Diebold Co. for Direct Record Electronic (DRE) machines and is committed to this company.

How did we get here? The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) was passed by Congress in 2002 in response to the “hanging chads” debacle of 2000. Among other things, it eliminated the use of punch card and lever voting machines. The result is that most states are switching to electronic scanners and eventually computers that will present the ballot in official languages of the area. HAVA also mandated equipment enabling voters with disabilities to vote independently and privately in federal elections by the 2006 primary.

So what’s the problem? Concerns about the security and accuracy of DREs have developed across the country. Communities are also concerned about malfunctions and inability to provide a recountable audit trail. They have brought numerous lawsuits and resolutions, and a number of voter organizations have been formed to try to protect the validity of everyone’s vote.

What does the LWV say? Among those resolutions is one adopted by the LWVUS Convention last June stating that the League’s position on Citizens’ Right to Vote affirms that the organization supports only voting systems designed so that:

1. They employ a voter-verifiable paper ballot or other paper record, an official record of the voter’s intent.
2. The voter can verify, either by eye or with a suitable device for those with impaired vision, that the paper ballot/record accurately reflects his or her intent.
3. Such verification takes place while the voter is still in the process of voting.
4. The paper ballot/record is used for audits and recounts.
5. The vote totals can be verified by an independent hand count of the paper ballot/record.
6. Routine audits of the paper ballot/record can be conducted in randomly selected precincts in every election, and the results published by the jurisdiction.

The panelists will include:

Invited: representatives of Diebold and the California Secretary of State’s Office
Pam Smith, Nationwide Coordinator, Verified Voting Foundation
Mimi Kennedy, California Protection Network

Topics to be covered are:

- The precautions being made by the Registrar of Voters to keep the Diebold machines secure
- The changes and speed of counting ballots after an election compared to punch card voting
- The ongoing financial and technical challenge of switching to DRE machines
- Local and national experience in various elections
- Making the process more transparent
- Alternative machines from other companies and how they differ from Diebold’s
- Recommendations for auditing elections and securing the machines
- Suggestions for voting at the polls on November 7th

“LWV Recommends” (continued from page 2)

↓ NO ON PROPOSITION 85 -- Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification.

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, and all parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put teenagers in danger.

↑ YES ON PROPOSITION 86 -- Tax on Cigarettes.

This constitutional amendment imposes an additional 13-cent tax on each cigarette distributed and increases taxes on other tobacco products. The estimated \$2.1 billion in annual revenue will fund emergency services and nursing education for qualified hospitals, as well as tobacco-use prevention programs, research, and treatment of various tobacco-related illnesses. The League believes that the overwhelming social benefits of this measure greatly outweigh the potential downside of this earmarked tax.

↓ NO ON PROPOSITION 88 -- Classroom Learning and Accountability Act. Real Property Parcel Tax.

This measure would impose a \$50 tax on each real property parcel to create the Classroom Learning and Accountability Fund in the state treasury. While the League supports equitable access to quality education, this measure violates the League's State and Local Finance positions and is not real reform. It proposes to earmark funds via a constitutional amendment without providing sufficient funding to even bring education spending up to the national average. It also involves the state for the first time in taxing property.

↑ YES ON PROPOSITION 89 -- California Nurses Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006. Public Financing of Campaigns. Corporate Tax Increase.

This measure would allow candidates running for office voluntarily to receive public campaign funding by meeting certain eligibility requirements. Funding would be provided for by a 0.2 percent increase in the corporate income tax. This measure also imposes new limits on campaign contributions, and places new restrictions on contributions by corporations and lobbyists. The League vigorously supports practices which will enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and which place realistic limits on campaign contributions and expenditures.

↓ NO ON PROPOSITION 90 -- Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property

This measure redefines the eminent domain process in ways that will make it difficult for government to protect the environment. It will likely increase costs to taxpayers for implementation of environmental protection laws or new consumer protection laws. The measure is, in part, vaguely worded and will likely result in extensive litigation.

↓ NO ON PROPOSITION C -- Managed Competition

A San Diego Charter amendment to allow the City to contract services traditionally performed by City civil service employees to the private sector if it is determined to be more economical and efficient. Prop. C would open the door to political patronage, destabilize police and fire services, undermine worker wages and benefits, and cripple the civil service system. League position states that “City government should maintain a civil service system of employment...guided by the principles of political neutrality...merit...equal opportunity....”

↑ YES ON PROPOSITION N -- Bond Issue for San Diego Community College District

A bond measure of \$870 million to finance continued upgrading of existing educational facilities including renovating classrooms, roof repair, upgrading science and high tech training labs, and equipping facilities to train nurses, police, paramedics, and firefighters. This bond will not raise taxes, but extend the tax rate of \$25/\$100,000 from Prop. S for another 13 years.

The League has no position on Proposition 83 (Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring) and is neutral on Proposition 1A (Transportation Investment Fund) and Proposition 87 (Severance or Extraction Tax on California Oil Producers).

Upcoming Events on the Energy Front

Dr. Helen Caldecott Speech: "Nuclear Power is Not the Answer"

Dr. Helen Caldecott, physician and longtime antinuclear advocate, will speak about her new book making the case that contrary to propaganda promoting nuclear power as "clean and green". Nuclear power in fact does contribute to global warming; its real costs are prohibitive (and taxpayers pick up most). There is insufficient uranium in the world to sustain long-term nuclear power and the potential for a catastrophic accident or terrorist attack far outweighs any benefits.

When: Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 7:00PM

Where: University of S.D. Institute for Peace & Justice.

Register: <http://peace.sandiego.edu> (scroll down to the October 4 event to sign up).

TOUR OF WHOLE FOODS MARKET (both educational and FUN!!!)

Whole Food's mission: "Whole Foods, Whole People, Whole Planet". The Whole Planet portion is a deep commitment to:

- ◆ Promote environmentally sustainable agriculture by supporting organic farmers and expanding the market for organic products.
- ◆ Recycle, reuse and reduce waste wherever possible.
- ◆ Use alternative energy - it is the only Fortune 500 company to offset 100% of electricity use with wind energy credits.
- ◆ Use green building techniques whenever possible.
- ◆ Have Green Mission representatives in each store to coordinate, inform and improve environmental efforts.

Other notable programs include the:

1. [Animal Compassion Foundation](#) to improve the quality of life for farm animals, respecting the role they play in human sustenance and promoting environmentally friendly methods of animal husbandry
2. [Whole Planet Foundation](#), dedicated to fighting poverty in developing countries by making credit available to the poorest of the poor. This has the indirect effect of reducing environmental abuse by promoting a more thoughtful approach to land use.

While the tour will focus on [Whole Foods Green Mission/Environment](#), the tour will also include shopping tips since we will be in the store. Why not be green and bring your own bag for purchases afterwards!!!

When: Thursday, October 26, 2006

Time: 10:00 a.m. (assemble at 9:50 outside front entrance)

Where: 711 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92103

Tel: 619.294.2800 (store)

RSVP: jill@jillelsner.com (limited to 15-20). Another tour will be arranged if oversubscribed.

Global Warming Screened

A group of League members met in August to view the Discovery Channel's documentary on "Global Warming: What You Need to Know", hosted by Tom Brokaw. Many had already seen Al Gore's movie, "An Inconvenient Truth," which draws upon the same science and presents similar facts.

The overall message was that individuals have contributed to a warming of the Earth's atmosphere that has already had noticeable effects and will potentially have much more. It contents that increased sea levels could engulf cities like New York, more vicious hurricanes like Katrina will occur, as well as more land turning to desert. Furthermore, half of the planet's species could disappear and within 100 years the world will be drastically different.

It is noted, however, that the movie's producers did not speak to anyone who believes the current warmth is part of the Earth's natural cycle. Instead, Brokaw focuses only on the growing number of scientists worried about what was once a controversial notion.

The documentary then shifts to measures that are being taken to slow global warming, such as New York City promoting more energy-efficient mass transportation, green building construction, and families unplugging television sets when they aren't being used.

For the November Unit meeting, which will be focusing on Energy, we will be discussing the Global Warming issue and distribute an easy-to-follow practical checklist of what each League member can do to alleviate global warming. What's encouraging is how many measures can be implemented simply through our own efforts without additional outlay.

For those interested in helping to plan for the November Unit meeting have ideas, etc., please email Jill Elsner at jill@jillelsner.com or call 858-274-2475 (H) or 858-695-6660 (office).

October Unit Meetings

State Ballot Measures Pros and Cons

Monday, Oct 9 9:30 -11:30 AM	Rancho Bernardo and Scripps Ranch	San Diego National Bank Community Room, 2 nd Floor 16789 Bernardo Ctr. Dr. San Diego, CA 92128	Irene Dunny (858) 613-0335 Ethel Palmer 858-675-0590
Monday, Oct 9 5:30 – 7:30 PM	Mission Valley	Mission Valley Library 2123 Fenton Parkway San Diego, CA 92108 (next to IKEA & Costco)	Debra Blum (619) 225-0353 Karen Beeson 619- 475-8236
Tuesday, Oct 10 9:30 - 11:30 AM	La Jolla	La Jolla Public Library 7555 Draper Avenue La Jolla, CA 92037	Alice McCauley (858) 642-1856
Tuesday, Oct 10 1:30 – 3:30 PM	University City	United Church of Christ 2877 Governor Drive San Diego, CA 92122	Fran Venn 858-558-3063 Susan Betts 858-455-6259
Wed., Oct 11 1:30 – 3:00 PM	North Shores/ Point Loma	Pacific Beach Library 4275 Cass Street San Diego, CA 92109	Dee Sacks (619) 226-2252 Nancy Witt (619) 222-7230
Wed. Oct 11 1:00 – 3:00 PM	Tierrasanta	Villa Monterey Clubhouse 5275 Rimpark/Apple Tree Dr. San Diego, CA 92124	Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214
Thurs. Oct 12 9:30 – 11:30	East San Diego	San Carlos Library 7265 Jackson Drive San Diego, CA 92119	Barbara Evje 619-462-4772

LWVSD Calendar — October

2	Mon.	<i>Yom Kippur</i>
3	Tues.	LWVSD Board Meeting, URS, 1615 Murray Canyon Rd., Ste. 1000
4	Wed	"Nuclear Power is Not the Answer", Helen Caldecott Joan Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, USD
5	Thurs	Unit Council, LWVSD Office
5	Thurs	Unit Discussion Leader Training, LWVSD Office
6	Fri	LWVSD Program Comm., Shirley. Larson, 5086 Constitution Rd., 92117
6	Fri	County League Board Meeting, LWVSD Office
10/9-12		UNITS - Pros and Cons— State Ballot Measures,
17	Tues	Luncheon: "Privatization or Partnership" Watch your mail for details
18	Wed	Membership Committee, LWVSD Office
	Wed	Education Committee, LWVSD Office
22	Sun	Intro. to LWV and Pros & Cons for the Public, Mission Valley Library
25	Wed	"How Safe Is Your Vote?: The Pros & Cons of Electronic Voting" SD County Office of Education, 6401 Linda Vista Road 92111
27	Fri	Public Policy Committee, LWVSD Office
28	Sat	LWVC Regional Training, Orange County - Call Beryl 858-459-4406

Membership News

Please welcome the following new members.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ZIP</u>
Karen Bates	92037
Mary Hoover	92118
Rebecca Levasseur	92103
Naomi D. McLean	92122
Andrea E. Migdal	92109

Greetings, League members. Our first meeting in Chula Vista was very encouraging. We had eight enthusiastic young women and one man interested in forming a Unit. With three generations represented in this group, League now has a great future. Thank you, committee members.

Peggy Finch, Membership Chair

Obituary: Shuf Swift

Shuf Swift recently passed away. What a loss that is to the children of San Diego! He had worked for years to ensure that all students in the San Diego City Schools would receive an equitable education as a member of the district's Student Equity Committee.

As a member of the League of Women Voters Education committee, Shuf volunteered frequently to undertake the hard tasks. He provided the research material on the SDCS that was in our Student Support Study. What the Education Committee appreciated the most was the reports he would send to us immediately after School Board Meetings as the LWVSD observer; they were excellent! When The LWVSD observed at schools to see if student support services were adequate, Shuf chose to visit all the ALBA Schools (schools for students whose behavior made it necessary to remove them from regular schools). Shuf, we miss you!

Volunteers Needed!

We're looking for volunteers to (wo)man the phones in the office for a week or two prior to the November 7th election. Two- or three-hour intervals, 9 to 5, would be nice. Bring a book, knitting, Christmas cards, whatever, for the quiet times. Sign up with Jeanne Brown at (619) 224-1807 or jhisten@cox.net.

Deadline extended for Name Tags

Are you interested in ordering a snazzy LWV pin? Contact either Jeanne Brown at jhisten@cox.net or Genoveva at the office at (858) 483-8696 or lwwsd@san.rr.com to order. Be sure to get your \$10 check in to the office by October 15!

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization dedicated to informed and active public participation in government policy and decision-making. The League engages in education and advocacy on behalf of the public interest and welcomes full participation in its activities by all members of the public.

Yes, I'd like to join the League of Women Voters of San Diego!

Name: _____ 2nd Household Member: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Dues Enclosed: _____ \$65 for one membership; _____ \$100 for two in same household

Mail to: League of Women Voters of San Diego, 4901 Morena Blvd., Bldg. 100, Ste. 104, San Diego, CA 92117

Volunteer to Work at the Polls



A relatively easy way for the League to raise some funds is to have members serve as poll workers on Election Day, November 7. Two people can even share the job, so it is not so taxing on our time and our bodies. You do not have to go to a training session unless you want a more supervisory position which cannot be split with someone else. The Registrar of Voters Office says they will place you close to home. The hours are 5:45 a.m. to about 10:00 p.m. when the polling place is cleaned up. They will cut one check for \$75 which will be sent to one of you. In turn, you could donate it to LWVSD. Just think! If 100 of us shared the job, the League would make \$3,750! You would also get a much clearer idea of how the machines work, how the counting goes, and what problems loom up during the day.

In order to register, please fill in the application form enclosed and mail it in as soon as you can. Further information is at www.sdvote.com and then click on the picture of Uncle Sam wanting poll workers. Although the website says only two members of a family can share the job, we are "a family" and have been granted that privilege. One of you should sign up as the worker and the other as the volunteer.

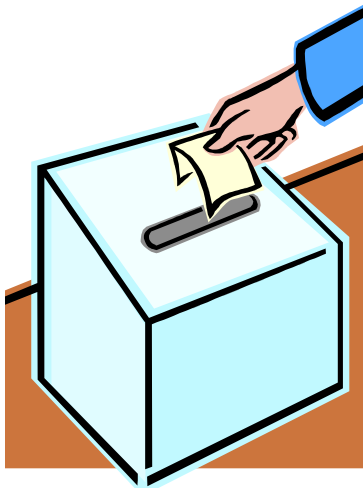
Beryl Flom

Why Should You Work at the Polls?

Many people have been concerned with the possibility of election fraud. Mikel Haas and the Registrar of Voters Office have conscientiously organized required training sessions. My husband and I found these educational sessions very thorough, and the teachers very well prepared. The League of Women Voters stands for education and active participation in the voting process. Working at the polls is basic to supporting these ideals. We have enjoyed meeting intelligent, active and dedicated San Diego County Poll Workers. After being trained and working at several polling locations as supervisors;



we are convinced that the risk of fraud is minimal. By volunteering, you will not only learn to be a first hand witness at the polls, but you will be a vital assistant in the San Diego voting process. If you have questions, call me.



Paula Hurst (858) 292-8214

SEE APPLICATION INSERTED

Why LWVSD opposes Proposition C

There are good reasons that government has traditionally been the provider of a wide range of public services. Are there better reasons to hand the job over to private companies? San Diego voters will be deciding this question when they cast their votes for or against Proposition C, the "managed competition" measure, on the November ballot.



Over the past decade at the national, state, and local levels, the privatization of government services has been gathering momentum. In local governments across the country, private contractors and corporations are replacing municipal workers in departments servicing public safety, trash collection, prisons, payroll services, information technology, public schools, public hospitals, water and wastewater, airports, recreational programs, transit, etc.

Although arguments in support of privatization typically state that competition makes people work harder and more creatively and generates new ideas for getting things done, it can be argued that a more significant political/ideological argument is the real engine of privatization efforts. According to Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform and a chief proponent of transforming government through privatization, "[The] real reduction in the cost and scope of government flows from reforming government spending towards zero rather than nicking it." In other words, the primary value of privatization is to shrink the size and role of government.




LWVSD opposition to Proposition C is based on our local position upholding the Civil Service System. The ability to privatize all city services will inevitably result in the erosion of San Diego's civil service system. We suggest that the public interest will be better served by greater government efficiency through improved management and oversight of city services and realistic reform of the political process and political players within.

Please study the LWVSD impartial Pro/Con arguments on Prop C and make up your own minds.

Norma Damashek, Public Policy



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LWVSD Diversity Policy

The LWVSD, in both its values and practices, affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there should be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League of Women Voters on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability. LWVSD recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision making. LWVSD subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs. LWVSD affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its Board, staff and programs.

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