



The Voter

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY

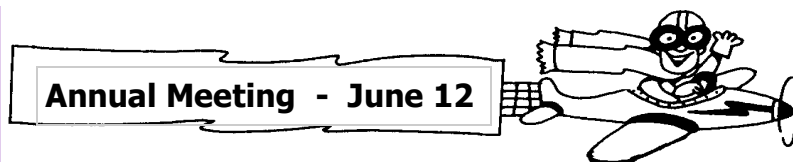
May 2010

ELECTION 2010



PROS & *CONS* OF THE JUNE BALLOT MEASURES

Presented by:
LWVWNC Voter Service Members



Saturday, May 8, 2010

Refreshments at 9:30 a.m.—Program at 10:00 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church

828 West Main

Grass Valley

(530) 265-0956 - www.lwvwnc.org

PREZ SEZ !



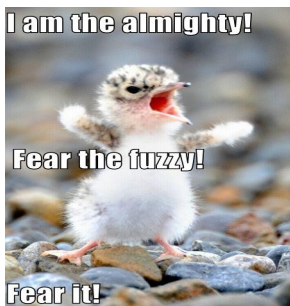
Election June 2010 is in high gear and yet it is an unfortunate fact that many citizens in our county seem oblivious to this important election. When I ask permission to leave copies of the excellent State League’s “Easy Voter” at various venues, I am constantly asked, “Is there an election coming up? What are we voting for now, but I guess it really doesn’t matter.” With the multitude of TV spots for the primary election for governor, with the overwhelming TV spots for “vote yes or no” on various propositions, I am overwhelmed by the indifference of our community. Much of the publicity about issues seems to be centered

on the November General Election. Yes, Virginia, there is a June Primary Election, and it will have a direct impact on Nevada County

Our Voter Service Committee under the aegis of Arlene Robertson and Debbie Sultan, is diligently working to bring information to the community. Pros & Cons will continue to be offered to requesting organizations, and our May 8 meeting will feature a Pros & Cons discussion of the ballot issues.



April 21 was the date for the first forum with Board of Supervisors District 3 candidates: Terry Lamphier and John Spencer, and Clerk-Recorder candidates: Gregory Diaz and Barry Pruett. The final forum will take place on May 11 at the Superintendent of Schools Community Room, 112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City. This forum will have the candidates for Assessor: Sue Horne and Rolf Kleinhans, and candidates for Treasurer/Tax Collector: Dai Meagher, Darlene Woo, Tina Vernon and Rick Nolle.



My tenure as your president is rapidly coming to an end. It has been my honor to represent our League for the last three years. At the June 12 Annual Meeting you will be voting on the slate of board officers and directors for 2010-2011. I am indebted to the diligence of the Nominating Committee chaired by Mary Zotalis with Linda McVicker and Dottie Schmidt. I was asked what single thing I was most proud of during my tenure. That should be a tough one, but I can answer with no hesitation: Putting our *Voter*

on line and having a web site that we can, justifiably, rank with the very best. Linda McVicker, our webmaster, did it! We truly came into the 21st Century. Thank you, Linda, and thank you to everyone who contributes to the web site with timely information. I could not have lasted three minutes, let alone three years, without the patient, vocal, intelligent, opinionated, and amazingly wonderful Board of Directors that stayed with me during my presidency. Our board meetings were never dull and always productive. I have enjoyed working with Mary Dreifuss and her very appropriate artistic clip art. I close with some of my favorites reproduced hereon for posterity.



Interview with Assemblyman Dan Logue

On April 6 Ruth Schwartz and I met with the Assemblyman for the yearly interview. The major part of the interview revolved around the state's budget problems and how Mr. Logue perceives the problem and process.

He delineated those areas which he felt are responsible for the problem. These are: the benefits provided for illegal immigrants which he estimates to be 13 billion dollars yearly. These would, amongst others, include health care and education benefits. An additional cost is the number of undocumented individuals who are currently in the state prison system. While he feels that a return to the Bracero Program of the 70's would provide employment for those immigrants who come into the country for work, he did not offer a solution to deal with those currently in the state other than to cut off their benefits.

A second cause of the budget deficit is the "entitlement society" and percent of those on entitlement programs. He stated that "California represents 12% of the U.S. population, but 30% of the welfare cases." While he recognizes the need for a safety net for those families in need, he feels the entitlement programs engender a lack of personal responsibility. He supports vocational training programs to provide a skilled work force with a strong work ethic.

A third cause of deficits is the loss of sales tax revenues due to businesses leaving the state because of over-regulation.

Mr. Logue is currently sponsoring a constitutional amendment which would forbid unfunded mandates from the state to local governments. While it might not be accomplished this year, he will resubmit it next session. He also feels that there could be a shift of power back to local government from Sacramento with term limits bringing in more legislators who have prior local governing experience.

He expressed confidence that a budget would be approved on schedule, but was firm in his conviction that the 2/3 vote for approval should remain.

Concerning state finances, the Assemblyman's focus is the growth and support of businesses. He feels the solution lies primarily in deregulation because he believes state regulations are driving businesses out of the state and, with them, tax income and jobs. More public awareness would create pressure on the legislature to act on the matter.

Polly Bacich
Action/Legislation Chair

... and you can quote me

"Popular government is still a theory because no one has yet found a government that is popular."



Easy Voter Guide

**Information from the June 8, 2010 Statewide Primary Election:**

Voters were asked to vote YES or NO on five propositions

Choosing to Vote “Yes” or “No” on a Proposition:

A. “Yes” means that you support the way the proposition would change things

B. “No” means that you want to leave things the way they are

Proposition 13: Property Taxes & Earthquake Safety

Property Tax: New Construction Exclusion: Constitutional Amendment

The way it is now:

Taxes owed on a property are based on its “assessed value,” which is set as the amount paid at purchase. Prop 13, passed by voters in 1978, placed a 2 percent limit on how much a property’s assessed value can increase each year after that. A property gets a new assessed value (which affects its taxes) when the property is sold. It may also be subject to “reassessment” if it undergoes construction for improvements.

Amendments to Prop 13 have created various exclusions from the requirement to reassess a property’s value after construction upgrades. Two of these exclusions deal with upgrades for earthquake safety.

What Prop 13 would do:

Two current exclusions related to earthquake safety improvements would be combined into one. The result would be that earthquake safety improvements on any property would not trigger a reassessment of the property’s value until the property is sold.

Effect on government spending:

There may be a minor loss of property tax revenue.

People for Prop 13 say:

- This corrects unfair policies that treat some properties differently than others and will encourage more earthquake safety upgrades for those types of properties.

For more information from the supporters call 661-861-8100

People against Prop 13 say:

- Let’s not add any more exclusions to our property tax system.

Proposition 14: Primary Elections

Constitutional Amendment

The way it is now:

California voters elect state and federal officials with a two-step process:

1. Primary election in June - each party selects a candidate for each office
2. General election in November – voters choose between the winning candidates from the Primary (one for each party)

All voters get the same ballot for the general election. In the primary, voters registered with a party get a ballot with their party's candidates. Independent voters ("decline to state") get a ballot with candidates only for nonpartisan offices. Some political parties allow independent voters to ask for their party's ballot in the primary; others do not.

What Prop 14 would do:

Changes the State Constitution to start a new election process for statewide offices like Governor plus congressional and legislative representatives:

- For the primary election, all voters would get the same ballot listing all the candidates. Voters could choose any candidate for each office, regardless of political party.
- The general election ballot would contain only the top two candidates who got the most votes for each office in the primary election, even if both are in the same party.

There would be no change to how primary elections are conducted for President and political party committee members.

Effect on government spending:

No significant net change in election costs.

People for 14 say:

- Representatives will have to win more votes from a broader cross-section of voters, not just from one party, and may be able to work together better once elected.
- Prop 14 gives independent voters an equal voice in primary elections, which may lead to higher voter turnout.

For more information from the supports go to www.yeson14openprimary.com

People against 14 say:

- The general election would offer only two candidates per office instead of one from each party; voters would get fewer choices and small party candidates would get shut out.
- Prop 14 could lead to many races with both candidates from the same party.

For more information from the opponents call 408-473-1000

Proposition 15: Public Funding of Campaigns*The way it is now:*

Current state laws ban the use of public funds for campaigns for elected office. Candidates need to raise funds to pay for their campaigns. The main job of California's Secretary of State is to oversee elections. Among its other duties, it reviews the activities of lobbyists. Lobbyists are people who communicate with public officials to try to influence government actions.

What Prop 15 would do:

Lift the ban on public funding for political campaigns. Set up a temporary program to test public campaign funding just for candidates for Secretary of State for the 2014 and 2018 elections. Candidates who choose to participate in the test of public campaign funding must agree to spending limits and other guidelines.

Effect on government spending:

This new program would be funded mainly by an increase in the fees paid by lobbyists, up from \$25 to \$700 every two years. Over \$6 million would be raised for each of the Secretary of State campaigns in 2014 and 2018.

People for 15 say:

- Prop 15 would help reduce political donors' influence over campaigns and politicians.
- Public campaign funding allows politicians to spend more time solving problems and focusing on the issues instead of fundraising.

For more information on the supporters go to www.yesfairelections.org

People against 15 say:

- With no restrictions on how candidates spend the money, public funds could pay for negative campaigns and junk mail.
- Prop 15 opens the door to use taxpayer dollars for public campaign funding for other offices.

For more information from the opponents call 916-448-4234



Proposition 16: Local Public Electricity
Initiative • Constitutional Amendment*The way it is now:*

Most Californians get their electricity through corporate utilities, such as Pacific Gas & Electric (PG &E) or Southern California Edison (SCE), or through publicly owned utilities such as Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD).

Cities and counties, separately or together, can choose to form their own electric service or they may contract for it with a provider other than a corporate utility. A local government's decision to contract for electricity services does not need voter approval.. If service from an existing publicly-owned utility is to be expanded into a new area, voters in the existing service area do not usually need to approve the expansion.

What Prop 16 would do:

Require two-thirds of voters to approve their local government's use of public funds to start up or contract for electric service or to expand service to new areas. Prop 16 has a few exceptions to this voter approval rule, such as when electric service is provided by wind or solar or if the local government is the electric service's only customer.

Effect on government spending:

Short-term, there may be small changes in electricity costs in the areas where local governments are considering providing electric service, but this is unlikely to have significant statewide impact. The long-term effects are still unknown, and would depend on future actions of local governments and voters.

People for 16 say:

- Any new local government spending should require a two-thirds vote.
- Prop 16 would make it more difficult for local governments to get into the uncertain retail electricity business.

For more information from the supporters go to www.taxpayersrighttovote.com

People against 16 say:

- Lack of competition among electricity providers could result in higher rates.
- A majority of the community should be able to decide how they want to get their electricity service, rather than require two-thirds voter approval.

For more information from the opponents go to www.powergrab.info



Proposition 17: Auto Insurance
Initiative Amendment

The way it is now:

Prop 103, passed by voters in 1988, sets up rules about rates insurance companies can charge. For auto insurance, rates are based mostly on a driver's safety record, the number of miles driven each year, and the number of years a person has been driving. Insurance companies are not allowed to use gaps in auto insurance coverage as a factor in setting rates.

What Prop 17 would do:

Allow insurance companies to include whether someone has had continuous auto insurance coverage as part of how they set rates. The discount for continuous coverage could be offered to someone who did not let their auto insurance lapse for more than 90 days in the past 5 years. Insurance companies may also be able to increase rates for drivers who do not qualify for this new discount.

Effect on government funding:

Prop 17 would probably have no major effect on total state tax income from auto insurance.

People for 17 say:

- Prop 17 will give drivers who stay insured more choices for lower cost insurance.
- Insurance companies would still be required to base rates on Prop 103 guidelines passed by voters, but this adds an additional discount that could be offered.

For more information from the supporters go to www.YesProp17.org

People against 17 say:

- Insurance companies in other states charge large penalties to customers who have had gaps in their coverage; Prop 17 allows the same thing in California.
- Prop 17 could create extra costs for people who didn't need to drive for a period of time and then later started driving again.

For more information from the opponents go to www.StopProp17.org



*League of Women Voters Western Nevada County
Annual Meeting June 12, 2010*

Luncheon Reservation Form
(Please return by June 1)

Place

Trolley Junction Restaurant
400 Railroad Avenue
Nevada City

Time

Membership Meeting at 10:30 a.m.
Luncheon at 12 p.m.

Cost

\$15 per person

Menu

Bacon wrapped Sirloin
topped with mushrooms demi-glace and crispy asparagus,
served with roasted red potatoes and seasonal vegetable

Chicken Cordon Bleu
topped with roasted garlic cream sauce,
served with rice pilaf and seasonal vegetable

Pasta Primavera
pasta tossed with sautéed vegetables, olive oil, white wine,
garlic, butter, and garnished with Parmesan cheese

Prices include entrée, dessert, soft drinks, tax and gratuity.



Name _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____

Entrée _____

All reservations must be received by June 1, 2010
Make check payable to: LWVWNC.
Send to: Treasurer, P.O. Box 1306, Grass Valley, CA. 95945

PROPOSED 2010-2011 LWVWNC BOARD MEMBERS**OFFICERS**

PRESIDENTS PRO-TEM	Liane Dozier (September, October, November) Karen Schwartz (December, January, February) Arlene Robertson (March, April, May)
VICE PRESIDENT	Liane Dozier
SECRETARY	Madelyn Helling
TREASURER	Sue Nepstead

DIRECTORS

ACTION/LEGISLATION	Polly Bacich
COMMUNICATIONS	Cleo Gibson
HOSPITALITY	Anne DeWitt
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MEMBERSHIP	Linda McVicker
OBSERVER CORPS	Mary Tucker
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Edi Silverman
PUBLIC RELATIONS	Karen Schwartz
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	Helen Williamson
VOTER EDITOR	Mary Dreifuss
VOTER SERVICE	Ruth Schwartz
	Deborah Sultan
WEBMASTER	Linda McVicker

The League of Women Voters
Western Nevada County
wishes to thank Brunswick Village
Assisted Living Community
for their continued support.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
WESTERN NEVADA COUNTY
P.O. Box 1306
Grass Valley, CA 95945

E-mail: lwwnc@gmail.com

Website: lwwnc.org

We appreciate the support of the following local businesses and business professionals

SPD Markets

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

<http://spdmarket.com>

New Moon Café

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

www.thenewmooncafe.com

A. Ann Armstrong

**Attorney & Counselor-at-Law
Estate Planning**

200 Auburn Folsom Road, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

Eskaton

Senior Residences & Services

625 Eskaton Circle, Grass Valley

(530) 273-1778 - (530) 273-8058 (FAX)

www.eskaton.org/index.htm

The Book Seller

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

booksgv@pacbell.net

Country Copy Print Shop

Maggi Cammack

1200 East Main Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-4657

BriarPatch Co-op

Natural Foods Community Market

290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley

(530) 272-5333

M-Sat 7a-8p. Sun. 8a-7p www.briarpatch.coop

The Wooden Spoon

A Toy Store for Cooks

2006 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

Mill Street Clothing

Lisa Swarthout

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

Flour Garden Bakery

11999 Sutton Way & 109 Neal Street, Grass Valley

340 C Elm Avenue, Auburn

(530) 272-2043 - (530) 477-2253

M-Sat. 5a-7p, Sun. 6a-8p www.flourgarden.com