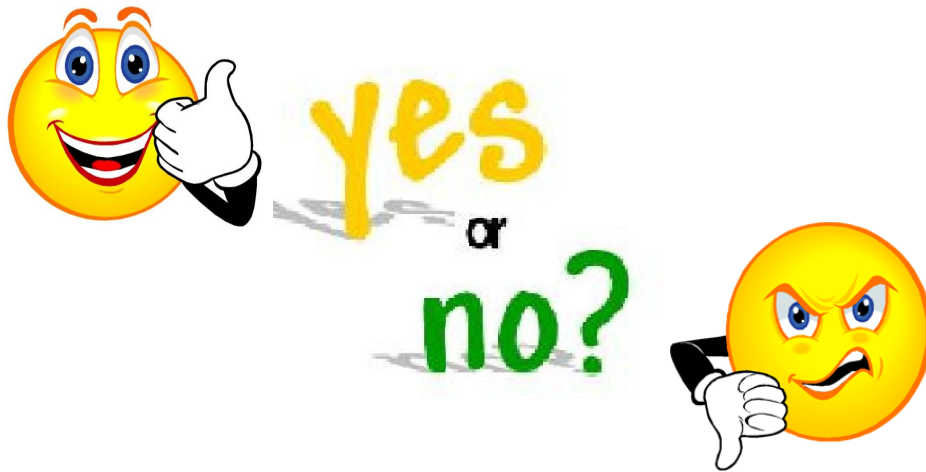




The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

October 2010



OUR OCTOBER MEETING

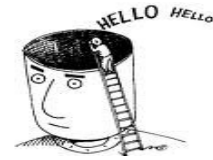
The “Pros & Cons” of the November 2010 Ballot Measures

Presented by
The “Pros & Cons” Team
of
LWWNC’s Voter Service Committee

Saturday, October 9, 2010

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

**Superintendent of Schools
Community Room
112 Nevada City Highway
(Junction of Ridge Road and Nevada City Highway)**



ELECTION 2010. Are You Ready to Make a Difference?

The Voter Service Committee is offering forums allowing citizens the opportunity to get “up close and personal” with candidates for elected office. We never endorse a candidate. We give all candidates the opportunity to participate in League forums. We are proud of our forums, our experienced moderators, timers, media representation, and, most importantly, questions fielded from our audience. Plan to attend the following forums:

1. Thursday, September 30—County Superintendent of Schools Community Room

112 Nevada City Highway and Ridge Road, Nevada City

Candidates for House of Representatives, District 4—7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Ben Emery, Green Party Clint Kurtis, Democratic Party

(Moderator: Dottie Schmidt)

2. Wednesday, October 6—Center For the Arts

314 West Main Street, Grass Valley

Candidates for State Assembly, District 3—7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Dan Logue, Republican Party Gary Bryant, Libertarian Party

Mickey Harrington, Democratic Party

Candidates for State Senate, District 4—8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Lathe Gill, Democratic Party Doug Lamalfa, Republican Party

(Moderator: Polly Bacich)

3. Thursday, October 7, Grass Valley City Council Chambers

125 East Main Street, Grass Valley

Candidates for Grass Valley City Council—7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Jason E. Fouyer Dan Miller Patricia Tureaue Edward W. Yarborough

Candidates for Nevada County Treasurer & Tax Collector—8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Tina Vernon Dai Meagher

(Moderator: Debbie Sultan)

Monday, October 18, 2010, is the last day to register to vote in the November 2 election. You can pick up a voter registration form at a post office, or you can have a registration form mailed to you by calling the Secretary of State at 1-800-345-8683. Voter Service will have a registration table at BriarPatch Co-op Community Market, 290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley, on Wednesday, September 29 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Vote at your polling place or use a “vote by mail” ballot. You can find your polling place on the back of your Sample Ballot or online at www.smartvoter.org. The polls are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Ruth Schwartz, Voter Service co-chair

The League of Women Voters **RECOMMENDS**

PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts

OPPOSE

The League **opposes** Prop 20, which we believe is well intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Prop 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work. We believe the commission should draw Congressional district lines in the future, but the new process should be fully implemented before the commission's responsibilities are expanded so dramatically. In addition, a new definition in this measure could make it harder for the commission to respect California's diverse neighborhoods and communities as it draws district maps. Let's give redistricting reform a chance to work the way the voters intended before we take the next step and add Congressional redistricting.

PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards

OPPOSE

The LWVC **vigorously opposes** this Dirty Energy Proposition, funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the landmark Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. Prop 23 would suspend the implementation of AB 32 until the state unemployment rate is 5.5 percent or lower for four consecutive calendar quarters. That has happened only three times in the last four decades! This dangerous proposition would get rid of clean energy standards that will cut air pollution and protect the public health. Proponents say this measure is needed to preserve jobs, but in fact it will jeopardize hundreds of thousands of clean energy jobs. We must promote California's role as an innovator and investor in a clean-tech economy.

PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act

SUPPORT

Proposition 24 would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in closed-door budget deals of 2008-09. These tax breaks cost approximately \$1.3 billion per year in revenue to the state and benefit only two percent of California's businesses. There is no requirement that they actually result in the creation of private sector jobs. Prop 24 will make big multi state corporations pay their fair share and put \$1.3 billion back into the treasury to help our schools, health care, and other essential services that have suffered severe budget cuts in recent years. The League **supports** this measure, believing that the budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts with no demonstrated value to the economy.

PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget

SUPPORT

The LWVC **supports** this measure, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two thirds to a simple majority. Majority rule is a fundamental part of democracy. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and reduce the stranglehold the minority now exercises over the process. Under Proposition 25, legislators will forfeit salary if they fail to meet the deadline for passing a budget. Budgets that are late and full of gimmicks harm all Californians, damage our economy, and hurt the state's credit rating.

PROP 26 "Polluter Protection"

OPPOSE

Proposition 26 would make new definitions of taxes and therefore require a two-thirds vote on many more government revenue decisions at both the state and local levels. Payments by those who cause harm to the environment or public health are currently defined as regulatory fees. Such fees would become much harder to enact, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill instead of those who pollute or create a public nuisance. The League opposes this measure because we believe that decisions on revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.

PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting

STRONG OPPOSE

This measure would kill the major redistricting reform voters just approved in 2008 and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature. Proposition 27 would allow politicians to draw their own districts to protect their jobs. It would take us back to the days when bizarrely shaped districts were drawn in secret, carving up neighborhoods and communities to keep incumbents safely in office. **Vote NO** to keep the power with voters and the voter approved independent Citizens Redistricting Commission.

NOTE: The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County will present the "Pros & Cons" of the full slate of Ballot Propositions on October 9th at our General Membership Meeting. See information on this important program on the front page of this issue of *The Voter*.



League of Women Voters of California®

STANDS ON ISSUES

In our Action/Advocacy role, the League is nonpartisan but we use our positions to advocate for or against particular policies in the public interest.

We never take positions on candidates or political parties.

We only take stands on measures when we have studied the issue and our membership has reached agreement on the policies and positions to support.

How we develop our stands on issues

The League of Women Voters takes action on an issue or advocates for a cause when we have a position that supports the issue or speaks to the cause.

Positions result from a process of thorough study. Any given study, whether it be National, State, or Local, is thorough in its pursuit of facts and details, both positive and negative. As the study progresses, a continuing discussion of pros and cons of each situation occurs.

Study committee members fashion consensus questions that are often addressed by the membership.

Additional discussion, pro and con, takes place as members (not part of the study committee) learn the scope of the study. After the members reach consensus, the board forms positions based on that consensus.

It is the **consensus statement** — the statement resulting from the consensus questions — that becomes a “position.” Firm action or advocacy can then be taken on the particular issue addressed by the position. Without a position, action/advocacy can not be taken.

Consensus is the overall decision-making process by which substantial agreement among members is reached on an issue.



One Vote

- u One vote made Oliver Cromwell Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England in 1645.**
- u One vote caused Charles 1 to be executed in 1649.**
- u One vote elected Thomas Jefferson president in 1800.**
- u One vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment in 1868.**
- u One vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic in 1875.**
- u An average of only one vote per precinct passed women's suffrage in California in 1911.**
- u Less than one vote per precinct, in one state, elected Woodrow Wilson President in 1912.**
- u One vote made Tennessee the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote in 1920.**
- u One vote made Adolph Hitler head of the Nazi party in 1923.**
- u A change of one vote per precinct in three states in 1968 would have made Hubert Humphrey president instead of Richard Nixon.**

SAD, BUT TRUE!

Some of us still ask: “WHY SHOULD I BOTHER TO VOTE?” . . .



. . . LUCY BURNS—beaten, hands chained to cell bars above her head and left hanging for the night, bleeding and gasping for air.

. . . DORA LEWIS —hurled into a dark cell, smashing her head against an iron bed and left unconscious.



. . . ALICE PAUL —embarked on a hunger strike, was tied to a chair while a tube was forced down her throat and liquid was poured into her stomach until she vomited. She was tortured like this for weeks.

Thirty-three women were arrested, beaten and jailed because they dared to picket the Wilson White House carrying signs asking for the vote. Now, 90 years after our grandmothers and great-grandmothers fought and suffered horrendous difficulties, we must spread the word to get out and use the “right” that was fought for by these courageous women.

Whether you are a Democrat, Republican or Independent—remember to vote. Remind young and old voters, our complacent voters, our “what difference does it make” voters, our “they’re all just a bunch of crooks” voters that voting is a privilege too often taken for granted.

Our local League is actively informing our electorate by having candidate forums, Pros and Cons presentations, and participating in the in-depth studies of the State League. Go to our web site. There you will find the November ballot recommendations of the League of Women Voters of California.

It is not enough just to encourage our families and friends to vote. We, ourselves, must become informed and intelligent voters. The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County is here to do just that. **Get involved and . . .**





How To Evaluate Ballot Propositions

- Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish. Do you agree with those goals? Is the measure seeking changes that are consistent with your ideas about government? Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
- Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Check where the money is coming from on the Secretary of State's Cal-Access campaign finance website: cal-access.sos.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures/.
- Is the measure written well? Will it create conflicts in law that may require court resolution or interpretation? Is it "good government," or will it cause more problems than it will resolve?
- Does the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict or obligate government revenues? If so, weigh the benefit of securing funding for the measure's program against the cost of reducing overall flexibility in the budget.
- Does the measure mandate a government program or service without addressing how it will be funded?
- Does the measure deal with one issue that can be easily decided by a YES or NO vote? Or, is it a complex issue that should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?
- If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution. Would a statute accomplish the same purpose? Remember that all constitutional amendments require voter approval: what we put into the Constitution would have to come back to the ballot to be changed.
- Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing of substance about the measure. Beware of half truths.

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
Armstrong & Associates**

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

www.annarmstrongandassociates.com

Hair Razors

Amy Pirtle

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 273-6793

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

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily 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