



The Voter

The League of Women Voters Western Nevada County

September 2010

Political Reform and the Initiative Process

– Intended and Unintended Consequences –



Guest Speaker:

Kimberly L. Nalder, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Government Department
California State University, Sacramento

Saturday, September 11, 2010

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

Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main Street
Grass Valley

**September Program****Political Reform and the Initiative Process
(Intended and Unintended Consequences)****Dr. Kimberly Nalder**

Associate Professor, Government, CSU, Sacramento

Kimberly Nalder is an Associate Professor in the Government Department at California State University, Sacramento. She is currently the Scholar-in-Residence, a board member for the Center for California Studies, and has been a fellow at the Institute for the Study of Media and Politics. Her research and teaching focus on public opinion, voting behavior, mass media, and women in politics. She has done past research on the electoral effects of term limits and political knowledge as a determinant of public opinion.

Professor Nalder has established a media research lab at the CSUS Institute for Social Research and is currently partnered with the Sacramento Media Group and Common Cause to monitor local television news election coverage.

Professor Nalder serves as a political “ad watcher” for KCRA news, and is involved in a public opinion research partnership with the Bill Lane Center at Stanford, the Institute for Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley and the Center for California Studies at CSUS to explore the views of Californians on issues related to state government reform.

With the June Primary Election a not too distant memory, and the November Midterm Election in our very near future, our League is looking forward to Dr. Nalder’s presentation. She has indicated that she would like to talk about political reform and the initiative process. She is planning on speaking about the unintended consequences of past reforms (term limits, Prop. 13, etc.) and the likely consequences of the newest reforms (redistricting and top-two primaries), plus an assessment of those on the November ballot.

This is a not-to-be-missed meeting with one of California’s most astute political observers and researchers. Be sure to mark your calendar **for Saturday, September 11, 2010!**

Helen Williamson
Program Coordinator



OBERVER CORPS REPORT

Keeping an on Government

Have you always wanted to watch our local government in action, but just didn't take the time to find out where and when the meetings take place? If so, there's a place waiting for you on the League's **Observer Corps**.

Name the local government board, council or commission you would like to observe, and you'll be wearing a League of Women Voters pin in no time at all as you take note of issues that are important to the community and to the League. LWV Observers have an opportunity to follow the funding and spending of local government programs in response to the economic downturn and tight budgeting concerns - could be an eye-opener!

If you are new to League, please be aware that Observers do only that—observe. A League Observer may not make comments at governmental meetings. They remain quiet, taking notes, and then reporting to me on the meeting's content and results.

Following are some of the local government entities and when they meet:

1. **Nevada County Board of Supervisors (BOS):** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 9 a.m., BOS Chambers, Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City
2. **Nevada County Planning Commission:** 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 1:30 p.m., Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City
3. **Grass Valley City Council:** 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
4. **Grass Valley Planning Commission:** 3rd Tuesday at 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
5. **Nevada City City Council:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
6. **Nevada City Planning Commission:** 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 6:30 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers
7. **NID Board:** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 9 a.m., 1036 West Main Street, Grass Valley
8. **Local Agency Formation (LAFCO):** 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m., BOS Chambers, Rood Administrative Center, 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City
9. **Nevada Joint Union High School Governing Board:** 3rd Wednesday of each month on a rotating basis, 6 p.m.. See website for calendar: www.njuhsd.com.

I hope you'll give me a call (265-8320) and take an active part in League. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Mary Tucker
Observer Corps



90 Years of Stronger Democracy

This August 26 marks the 90th anniversary of the day when the U.S. Constitution was amended to grant women the right to vote. The nonpartisan League of Women Voters, formed when women were first granted the right to vote, will mark this occasion with reflection on how far we have come as well as optimism that this year will bring even more Americans into the democratic process.

At the behest of Rep. Bella Abzug (D-NY), in 1971 the U.S. Congress designated Aug. 26 as Women's Equality Day. The date was selected to commemorate the 1920 passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. This was the culmination of a massive civil rights movement by women that had its formal beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York.

Joint Resolution of Congress 1971

Designating August 26 of each year as Women's Equality Day

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have been treated as second-class citizens and have not been entitled the full rights and privileges, public or private, legal or institutional, which are available to male citizens of the United States, and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have united to assure that these rights and privileges are available to all citizens equally regardless of sex, and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States have designated August 26th, the anniversary date of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, as symbol of the continued fight for equal rights, and

WHEREAS, the women of the United States are to be commended and supported in their organizations and activities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that August 26th of each year is designated as "Women's Equality Day," and the President is authorized and requested to issue a proclamation annually in commemoration of that day in 1920, on which the women of America were first given the right to vote, and that day in 1970, on which a nationwide demonstration for women's rights took place.



Bella Savitzky Abzug
1920-1998

WHERE WILL YOU BE NOVEMBER 2, 2010?

BE PREPARED!

LWVWNC Presents:



Voter Service Coming Attractions of 2010!

FORUMS

Thursday, September 30:

Superintendent of Schools Community Room
112 Nevada City Highway, Nevada City
Candidates for the House of Representatives, District IV
7:15 p.m.—8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, October 6:

Center for the Arts
314 West Main Street, Grass Valley
Candidates for State Assembly
7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Candidates for State Senate
8:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 7:

Grass Valley City Hall Council Chambers
125 East Main Street, Grass Valley
Candidates for Grass Valley City Council
7:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.
Candidates for Nevada County Treasurer
8:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.

PROS & CONS OF THE BALLOT MEASURES

Saturday, October 9:

LWVWNC General Meeting
Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main Street, Grass Valley
10 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Ruth Schwartz and Debbie Sultan
Voter Service Co-chairs



Does one *run* or *stand* for office??

A candidate for public office in Great Britain *stands* for the office. In the United States, he *runs* for it.

The British term has been in use since 1551. It seems to be related to standing trial. The American term first appeared in 1884, after Andrew Jackson had introduced the spoils system.

The different words reflect different points of view. The British see the election from the point of view of society; the candidate is, as it were, on trial before the bar of public opinion. Like an accused man, he stands until judgment has been passed on him. The Americans see it from the candidate's point of view—as a race for a prize. To speak of *running* for office reflects unabashed, functioning democracy.



NEW MEMBERS

Our warmest welcome to our new members:

Steven Murphy



Marilyn Wilson

Addresses, phone numbers and e-mails of members can be obtained by contacting the Membership Chair, Linda McVicker

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

September 2010

League of Women Voters
Western Nevada County
P.O. Box 1306
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(530) 265-0956

E-mail:
lwvwnc@gmail.com
Website:
lwvwnc.org

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The changing climate is threatening human health and causing environmental damages.

Global climate change is one of the most **serious threats** facing our nation and our planet today. Increasingly severe consequences are projected for more people and more regions of the world unless we act now -- as individual, as communities, and as a nation. For its part, the League is calling for prompt action to **cut this country's GHG emissions**, freeze construction of new coal-fired power plants, **invest in a new clean energy economy**, and help the world's poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change.

State and local Leagues, and individual League members, have a **critical role** to play in helping to **limit future climate change and protect the planet**. This toolkit provides action plans and resources that Leagues and League members can use to --

- help people in their community learn what they can do at the individual and household levels to **save energy and reduce their carbon footprint**,
- work with their community to **set emissions-reduction goals** and then develop and implement a plan to achieve those goals, and
- build grassroots support for strong action on climate change at the state and federal levels, including eventual ratification of an effective international climate agreement.



In the Toolkit:

I. Choosing a Role for Your League

Play a very important role in educating your communities about global climate change and the need for strong action to reduce GHG emissions.

II. The Basics of Climate Change

Get up to speed on the basics of climate change with the clearly written and accessible resources in this section.

III. Engaging Individuals

The decisions that people make every day have an impact on climate change. Help individuals and groups from school-age kids to congregations and business communities learn about actions they can take to reduce their carbon footprint.

IV. Mobilizing Your Community

Learn about programs to cut GHG emissions and adopt more sustainable best practices and how you can help advance green initiatives in your community.

V. Promoting Public Policy

Strong action at every level of government is needed to combat global climate change. Learn about important policy initiatives at the state and federal levels and ways in which you can build the public support needed to secure their adoption and implementation.

VI. Resources

Explore this comprehensive set of resources for in-depth information about key climate change-related topics, including climate science, energy, economics, ethics, health, and national security.

Legislation Report

The DISCLOSE Act was blocked in the Senate because 60 votes were needed to avoid a filibuster. Climate legislation was also stalled. At the recent national League convention, the delegates passed a resolution regarding limiting the use of the filibuster. Full disclosure of campaign spending and action on climate change are too important to kill without debate. Considering what has happened in the Gulf of Mexico, comprehensive legislation to address climate change is as urgent as it ever was. The League will continue to put pressure on the Senate. Even though the DISCLOSE Act was blocked, the League will continue to work on it this Fall. Three additional votes are needed to bring about the much needed debate. The League will continue to target Senator Brown of Massachusetts, and Senators Snowe and Collins of Maine.

PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP???

Shortly before the Georgia primary election earlier this month, over 4,200 Georgians received a letter from the state telling them that they would have to provide "proof of citizenship" before their votes would be counted in the primary election. The Georgia State League, the LWWUS Public Advocacy for Voter Protection, as well as the local League in one of the counties affected, are working to identify the individuals, and to implement an election protection strategy.



One wonders, if one receives such a notification, would we all be expected to produce a birth certificate? If so, could its validity be challenged? Something to think about!

Polly Bacich
Action/Legislation chair

It's That Time Again!

Be sure to send your 2010-2011
Membership Dues in by
September 1, 2010
to:
Treasurer, LWVWNC
661 Morgan Ranch Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945



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