

The Palo Alto *VOTER*

The LWV of Palo Alto

February 2010

Phyllis Cassel, President ; Mary Alice Thornton Membership;
Karen Sundback & Rely Davidson, *VOTER* Editors; Phone: (650) 327-9148; <http://www.lwvpaloalto.org>



Vol.
XXIV
No. VI

Housing Update Units

*The time has come this Leaguer says,
to talk of many things
Of housing in our city fair,
How much, what kind, and where.*

Join us on **Tuesday, February 16, from 9:30-11:30 at the home of Mary Jo Levy (please consult League Directory for Mary Jo's address), or on Saturday, February 20, from 9:30 -11:30 at Channing House, 4th floor lounge**, to discuss the Housing Related Concepts and Issues (see right column) as we update our Housing Position. Small tidbits of food will be available to help you with your large portions of ideas.

Additional ideas you might want to check out may be found in regional, state, and national League housing positions. Go to "<http://www.lwvpaloalto.org/Advocacy.html>" and click on links to other levels of the League. Please see page 5 for LWVPA Housing Position.

Irene Sampson, Study Chairperson ✨

Housing Related Concepts/Issues

- diversity--economic, age, ethnicity, multiple levels of affordability
- non-discrimination
- job/housing balance
- transit access and parking requirements
- definition of neighborhood density
 - single family neighborhoods
 - along transit corridors
 - near services
 - impact on schools
 - lot coverage, height
- walkability
- priority in subsidized housing for people in certain occupations
- innovative forms for housing design,
 - housing over retail
 - charge for parking space
- mixed use
- state and regional planning
- clarity and consistency in development process
- local requirement for inclusionary zoning
- other ✨



Classic Communities



Arbor Real

Moldaw Family Residences

IMPORTANT JANUARY EVENTS ON PAGES 3 & 4

Carpools available for all events. Leave your name and phone number at the office: 327-9148



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: lwvpaooffice@gmail.com. Deadline is the first Friday after the first Wednesday of each month.

President's Message

Welcome Everyone!

Yes, the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto is now online with a Google group list for everyone who has given us an e-mail address. You did receive our announcement just before the New Year I hope. Last summer your Board decided that in addition to continuing to provide good programming and voters service we have three goals for the immediate future: 1. Enhance our technical presence; 2. Improve our membership attraction and retention; and 3. Update our League financial donor list. Program-wise we would focus on the topic, "the California Budget and Economy".

Developing some type of an e-mail announcement system was high on our technical priority list. This December we have developed the Google group; we expect to send two but no more than four messages each month, for example, meeting announcements and requests for assistance. As you know, in today's world changes sometimes happen rapidly or at least unexpectedly. At the moment, Doris Petersen is acting as monitor. Messages will only be sent with my approval or that of the vice presidents, Doris Petersen or Irene Sampson. We wish to keep you informed but not overwhelmed. This is not an interactive e-mail. If you want to email or call one of us you will need to use the contact information found in your membership directory or on our Web site at www.lwvpaloalto.org.

We are, in addition, improving our Web site at www.lwvpaloalto.org. The VOTER is now posted on the Web page monthly and archived for the last 12 months. You may also 1. access information on action items, 2. be referred to the LWV California or the LWVUS Web site or Smart Voter. Other items of interest are available in more depth than we can print in the VOTER, such as the in depth-analysis on why we should support a LWVUS study on education. Karen Sundback and Veronica Tincher are nurturing the Web site.

At this time the VOTER will continue to be mailed and I will continue the monthly phone blast. If you wish to opt out of the phone blast, please send me an e-mail. If you wish to opt out of the "LWVPA e-news" see the instructions at the bottom of the announcement.

I hope that the LWVPA e-news will be useful and timely for you. Please check out our Web site as well. See you at program planning.

Phyllis Cassel.
President LWV Palo Alto ❁



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

OFFICERS

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Rosalie Lelkowitz
Luise Maier

The VOTER is online at www.lwvpaloalto.org



Planning the Future for our League

Alice Smith's house
4284 Los Palos Cirde
Saturday, January 23,
9 – 11:30 am

Join a lively discussion on National, Bay Area and Palo Alto issues. Recommend to LWVPA Board issues for study and advocacy, or something new or different. More information is in the previous VOTER.

Brunch included ✨

Nominations for Officers and Directors for the Board of the LWVPA

Nominations are now open for your Board of Directors and Officers for the LWVPA for 2010 – 2011 Board: President, Second Vice President, Treasurer, Directors (7).

We have board and off-board roles to be considered. See your League Directory for current board members and the roles that we have. Come to the program planning meeting (information is above) and see whether you might like to become more active in this valuable community asset: your Palo Alto League of Women Voters. Remember: this is an election year (primary in June, election in November).

Nominations should be submitted by **2/20/2010 to your nominating committee listed below:**

Alice Smith, Nominating Committee Chair

asmith36@sbcglobal.net

Rosalie Lefkowitz

rleiko@earthlink.net

Luise Maier

lmaier101@yahoo.com

Virginia Pirrotta

ginipir@sbcglobal.net

Doris Petersen

petersendoris@earthlink.net ✨



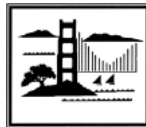
A Community Dialogue with the Foothill/De Anza Community College Board of Trustees

Los Altos Library, Community Room
13 S. San Antonio Road, Los Altos
Wednesday, January 27, 7 to 9 pm

What Lies Ahead for our Community Colleges? As state education funding declines, community colleges face difficult times and tough decisions. How are our community colleges doing, and what issues are they confronting? How do community colleges define their core mission when they can't afford to do everything they once did? What do we want our community colleges' priorities to be?

Everyone has a stake in the success of our community colleges, especially if they have children who plan to go to a community college, or they need to retrain for a new job, or they simply want to take classes to better themselves. Come to the forum and participate in the discussion.

Sponsored by LWV Los Altos/Mountain View, Palo Alto, Cupertino/Sunnyvale and the Los Altos Library ✨



Big Steps, Little Steps to Addressing Climate Change

MetroCenter at 101 Eighth Street in Oakland,
next to the Lake Merritt BART Station
Saturday, January 30, 9 am - 3 pm

This year's forum will look at how California can plan for its population boom in a sustainable, environmentally friendly way, with a specific emphasis on the state's new Smart Growth law, Senate Bill 375 (Steinberg). California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols will serve as the keynote speaker.

The morning session will also feature a series of experts in discussion of the key SB 375 policy areas of air quality, transportation, housing, and land use.

In the afternoon session, several more experts will describe how local communities around the Bay Area are already independently carrying out Smart Growth practices to help cut down on greenhouse gas emissions and fight climate change.

A light breakfast will be served to all who attend.

Register with lunch for \$25, register without lunch for \$15, before Jan. 21.

Fees increase to \$30/20 after Jan. 21. To register go to

"<http://www.lwvba.ca.lwvnet.org/>" and click on calendar.

Bay Area League Day 2010 is hosted by League of Women Voters of the Bay Area ✨



**Health Care:
What Still Needs to be Done?**
Sunday, January 31, 2-4:15 pm
Congregation Beth Am
26790 Arastradero Road, Los Altos Hills
Rooms 5 & 6

Congress has created a health care reform bill. But it is apparent that we will still have work to do after this initial legislation. A diverse and expert group of speakers will lead this event. They are—Assemblyman Jim Beall, Victor Fuchs, Dr. Hal Luft.

CA AD 24 Assemblyman, Jim Beall is Chair of the Human Services Committee, Chair of the Select Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and is a Member of the Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services. His public service is extensive. Beall has served as a San Jose City Council Member, and as a member of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, before being elected to the CA Assembly in 2006.

Professor Victor Fuchs is the Henry J. Kaiser, Jr., Professor of Economics and Health Research and Policy at Stanford University. He is presently at the National Bureau of Economic Research at Stanford. His special interests are universal health coverage and the factors determining health care spending.

Dr. Hal Luft is the Research Institute Director of the Palo Alto Medical Foundation, author or co-author of four books dealing with health care policy and cost issues. His most recent book is "Total Cure: The Antidote to the Health Care Crisis" (2009). ✨



**Peninsula Chapter of the
World Affairs Council**
Wednesday, February 17
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 World Affairs Council lecture, **Global Investigative Journalism: From Corruption to Terrorism** with **Lowell Bergman**, Producer and Correspondent, PBS *Frontline* and formerly *60 Minutes*; Professor of Investigative Reporting at the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley.

Admission is free. ✨

New Facts for Voters are in the Mail

Facts for Voters gives you all the information you need about voting procedures and our elected officials – where to contact them, etc. Doris Petersen and Betty Gerard did the fact-checking and updates this year. *Facts* will be distributed to libraries and other public places throughout the year.

As part of our annual League fund-raising campaign – League-a-thon – we mail the new *Facts* to all members, donors and prospective donors. League members have been very generous in making donations to the League over and above dues. Many thanks to all of you for your support! The *Facts* mailing gives members another opportunity to help the League if they wish. Non-members are an important part of the League's financial foundation. Last year, we received donations from about 175 non-members. Our annual phone campaign to non-members will be held the evenings of Monday and Tuesday, February 1 and 2. Our phone crew, all volunteers, will use our League office atrium for the second year to place the calls. Join us for an hour or so of calling our many League friends. You will find that they are very supportive of the League so it's easy to talk to them about contributing. Call Mary Alice or Veronica if you can help.

Thanks to the mailing crew for all the work of putting almost 700 pieces into the mail, and to the many people who added personal notes to the outgoing letters: Julie Barney, Phyllis Cassel, Ellen Forbes, Betty Gerard, Trina Lovercheck, Irene Sampson, Alice Smith.

Mary Alice Thornton & Veronica Tinchler ✨



Eleanor Roosevelt and the First Year of the League

League of Women Voters meeting, 1920. In front from left to right are Mrs. Henry R. Hayes, Miss Martha Van Rensselaer, Mrs. Casper Whitney, general regional director of the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Samuel Bins, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Mrs. Henry Goddard Leach.

Housing Update Study Units (*continued from page 1*)
Tuesday, February 16, 9:30-11:30 at the home of Mary Jo Levy
 or
Saturday, February 20, 9:30 -11:30 at Channing House, 4th floor lounge,
 850 Webster Street, Palo Alto

LWVPA HOUSING POSITION

Support of policies and actions by the City of Palo Alto toward the goals of maintaining the quality of both immediate and larger neighborhoods, including the general green and open feeling of all residential neighborhoods; improving the diversity of housing opportunities with emphasis on economic diversity; lessening the jobs-housing imbalance; and insuring that all housing is open to everyone without discrimination based on gender, race, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or marital status.

OBJECTIVES

Support of:

1. Use of zoning and planning powers to achieve these goals, and to insure that good standards of quality will prevail.
2. Increasing the density of single-family residential areas in various ways, including: dividing of existing units, extra kitchens, denser use of corner lots, zero lot lines, cottages, duplexes and triplexes dispersed throughout on appropriate lots.
3. Increasing multiple family units sited along transportation corridors, and near services.
4. Careful consideration in designing any of these units (as in objectives 2 & 3) to blend into existing immediate and larger neighborhoods including traffic, parking, visual impact and intrusion into daylight plane. Large neighborhoods include commonality of interest, schools, stores, and services.
5. City efforts to encourage the development of subsidized or other low-to-moderate and below-market-rate housing by private and/or non-profit developers, or whatever method will lead to housing which will remain in the lower income housing stock.
6. Priority for employees and residents (who qualify) in city-subsidized units. First priority should be given to employees who are necessary to meet emergency needs. Establishment of a loan program for city or school employees with safeguards such as one-time-only, no windfall gains, and loss of loan when employment with city or school terminates.
7. Encouragement of Stanford University in its efforts to alleviate the housing problem it creates. The city and Stanford should work together to solve mutual problems.
8. Palo Alto's continued participation in the County Housing Authority.
9. Palo Alto's working with other cities in the county to encourage cooperative planning for housing in the county, including sharing city housing funds.
10. Actions by the City which would promote a mixture of ownership and rental housing.

Does our current Housing Position, last revised in 1990, meet today's needs? *



February 14, 2010
LWVUS's 90th Anniversary

The League of Women Voters is an U.S. political organization founded



Planks of the National League of the Women Voters

in 1920 by Carrie Chapman Catt during the last meeting of the National American Woman Suffrage Association

approximately six months before the Nineteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution gave women the right to vote. It began as a "mighty political experiment" aimed to help newly-enfranchised women exercise their responsibilities as voters. *



March 2009. Lobbying Success For Arkansas LWV. Governor Signs Conservation Bill

Thank you!

Greenmeadow Community Association

for your ongoing financial support of the Candidate Forums*

Implementing Instant Runoff Voting: A Status Report

The LWVSCC IRV Implementation Action Committee held a very successful kickoff meeting in October. While our original goal was to lobby the Board of Supervisors to start the ball rolling for implementation of IRV in 2010, we realized that that was not a reasonable target date, and a more reasonable target would be to have the first IRV election in November 2012.

One of the factors that lead to this decision was the apparent reluctance of the Registrar of Voters to begin the process of implementing IRV. There also seems to have been some misinformation circulated to some of the Supervisors concerning San Francisco's use of IRV. For IRV to be used in November 2010, the Board of Supervisors would have to make the decision to implement it by February or March of 2010, and that would not give us enough time to prepare the compelling case we will need in order to overcome the Registrar's reluctance and combat the misinformation.

Even so, to make a target date of November 2012 we need to start now anyway (especially given how little will get done over the holiday period), so it is good that the Issue of Emphasis was approved when it was.

Given the League's scheduling process, with program planning in the winter for approval in the spring, we will be asking for continuation of this Issue of Emphasis at the upcoming program planning meetings. As we already have a small but committed group of volunteers, and the cost of this action is minimal to non-existent, we don't think this will be a problem.

We have already begun to collect articles concerning the implementation of IRV elsewhere in the country, showing how it has a positive effect on campaigning. We have contacted LWV San Francisco for their impression of IRV (it was positive). We are collecting cost estimates for conducting IRV elections. We are preparing a time-line for the campaign we will have to run to get IRV implemented. We will resume our meetings after the holidays. (If you are interested in joining our small band, send an email to lwscc-irv-subscribe@yahoogroups.com and indicate to which League you belong. If you don't have access to email, call Steve Chessin at 650-962-8412.)

One thing that will help us is that the Secretary of State has recently approved the use of Sequoia's optical scan system not just for San Francisco but also for Alameda County, which plans to implement IRV for three of its client cities (Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro). As this is the same equipment that we use in Santa Clara County, this removes one of the obstacles to eventual IRV implementation. (The equipment wasn't approved for IRV use in Santa Clara County because our County has not yet asked for that approval. This is one of the things we need to get our County to do.)

--Steve Chessin
Chair, LWVSCC IRV Implementation Action Committee ❁



Board in Brief - December Minutes

At the December meeting, your Board:

- Welcomed university student, Vanessa Davis, observing the League for a class.
- Karen Douglas reported a net decrease in funds for the month due to high totals for services to both members and to the community. We need 11.5 more renewals to meet budgeted amount.
- Veronica reported that LAT's 2009 receipts are well below their usual levels at this late date.
- Phyllis passed around information for the "Join the Alternatives to the Death Penalty Coalition" which was formed by the ACLU. LWVUS has a position against the Death Penalty.
- The New Voices Committee is looking for new partners and new people.
- LWVPA is following the progress of composting plans for the Baylands.
- LWVUS is closely following health care legislation. LWVC has not decided whether to support a constitutional convention or to support individual ballot measures to address particular elements of our state governance problems.
- AB 30 allowing 17 year-olds to register to vote has been signed.
- Karen Sundback has been trying to cut VOTER costs. Next issue will be sent online to other Leagues, and old issues will be archived on the Web site for one year.
- The Technical Committee is considering an opt-out system for sending mailings by e-mail
- The high school essay contest will be announced after the second semester begins.

Submitted by Relly Davidson ❁

Thank you!

Welcome to the League

December/January VOTER Mailing Party. We would like to thank the following people for making the assembly and delivery of the December/January VOTER possible:

Isabel Arabian, Geri Stewart, Vivian Blomenkamp, Jean Colby, Carol Stevens, Janet Creelman, Mitzi Henderson

*Submitted by Relly Davidson & Karen Sundback
The Palo Alto VOTER Editors**



We are delighted to have you as members. *

News from New Voices

After a quiet Fall season, New Voices for Youth, an outreach project of the Leagues of Palo Alto and South San Mateo County that uses video and new media to encourage youth from underserved communities to present their issues and stories is looking forward to changes in 2010. Our mission is to lay the groundwork for their own community involvement. Our stellar project director for 2008-2009 Anne-Marie McReynolds is moving on with graduate work in computer science. We intend to build on her accomplishments - she developed a solid series of lesson plans, specified and purchased video equipment that can be transported for on-site use in various locations and led youth participants to make an outstanding series of short videos. You can view these at <http://newvoices.ning.com/> and click on videos. We are deeply grateful to Anne-Marie for her vision, skills and accomplishments with the project, and her commitment to the students. We expect to hear good things about her in the future and wish her the very best.

New Voices is now ready to recruit another leader for the project. We are looking for candidates who have proven interests in youth and civic engagement, and who can make use of video and new media to engage the youth to tell their own stories. This is a part-time, contract position which reports to the New Voices Steering Committee. The actual work takes place in settings for youth - schools, community facilities - and the New Voices Project Director works closely with a designated leader in each setting. Additionally we are looking for a person who will utilize the talents and experience of League members and other community volunteers to assist the students to find information, resources and community connections. Your suggestions are most welcome - do you know of possible candidates? Would you like to learn more about New Voices?

Contact Veronica Tincher, vtincher@yahoo.com *

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.

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: \$68.00 Additional membership, same address: \$34.00

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 Mary Alice Thornton (650) 327-9148

LWV of Palo Alto
953 Industrial Avenue, Suite 113
Palo Alto, CA 94303
(650) 327-9148

Non-Profit Org.
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Palo Alto, CA

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<p>Calendar...check for changes at http://wvpaloalto.org/Calendar.html</p> <p>January 2010</p> <p>23 Sat 9 am-noon. Program Planning, Alice Smith's</p> <p>27 Wed 7-9 pm. Foothill-DeAnza Board, Los Altos Library</p> <p>30 Sat 9-3 pm. LWV Bay Area, Oakland—Climate Change</p> <p>February—YOUTH VOTER MONTH</p> <p>3 Wed 7:15 pm. Board Meeting, Sara Whitehead</p> <p>5 Fri Noon. VOTER deadline</p> <p>16 Tue 9:30-11:30 am. Unit meeting. Housing Position</p> <p>20 Sat 9:30-11:30 am. Unit meeting. Housing Position</p> <p>March—WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH</p> <p>3 Wed 7:15 pm. Board Meeting, M.A. Thornton</p> <p>5 Fri Noon. VOTER deadline</p>	<p>UNITED STATES</p> <p>President Obama.....(202) 456-1414 Send e-mail messages to- http://www.whitehouse.gov/CONTACT/</p> <p>Senator Feinstein.....(415) 393-0707 Send e-mail-http://feinstein.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?FuseAction=ContactUS.EmailMe</p> <p>Senator Boxer.....(415) 403-0100 Send e-mail - http://boxer.senate.gov/contact/email/policy.cfm</p> <p>Rep. Anna Eshoo.....(650) 323-2984 Send e-mail - http://eshoo.house.gov/</p> <p>CALIFORNIA</p> <p>Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger(415)703-2218 Send e-mail messages via website - http://gov.ca.gov/interact</p> <p>Senator Joe Simitian(650) 688-6384 Send e-mail messages via website-http://www.senatorsimitian.com/main/contact</p> <p>Assemblyman Ira Ruskin(650) 691-2121 Send e-mail -http://legplcms01.lc.ca.gov/PublicLcms/ContactPopup.aspx?district=AD21&</p> <p>SANTA CLARA COUNTY</p> <p>Supervisor Liz Kniss(650) 965-8737 Send e-mail -liz.kniss@bos.sccgov.org</p> <p>LWV GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT</p> <p>Locate your elected officials with your street address http://www.guidetogovernment.org/</p>
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