

LEGISLATIVE INTERVIEW REPORT FORM 2011-2012 FOR LEAGUE USE ONLY

Please complete and return this form to the LWVC office by **February 29, 2012**. Keep a copy for your files. In addition, please send a copy to every local League and MAL unit in this legislator's district. (Consult pages L3-L7 and pages F3-F9 of the *LWVC Resource Directory 2011-2012* for listings and addresses.)

Name of legislator _____ **Cathleen Galgiani** _____

Senate/Assembly District Number 17th Date of Interview 2/17/12 _____

Brief description of district (e.g., urban, suburban, rural, socioeconomics, major city):

Some urban (Stockton, Merced), largely rural; this is as region hard-hit by the foreclosure crisis and with a particularly high unemployment rate.

Name of person reporting _____ **Jane Wagner-Tyack** _____ Phone _____ **209-365-1986** _____

E-mail _____ **JaneTyack@mac.com** _____ Member of LWV of _____ **San Joaquin County** _____

Names of local Leagues represented at the interview _____ **San Joaquin County** _____

Please report the legislator's responses to the following questions. Use additional pages as necessary.

1. California Budget: *California has both a problem with insufficient revenue for the programs we would like to support, and an ongoing problem with the actual process of passing a budget. What measures would you support to balance the budget? What measures would you support to change the budget process?*

Measures to balance the budget: Put people back to work (with projects like high speed rail, which she supports) so tax revenues can increase. Put in place a temporary revenue increase until the economy turns around. The Legislature does waste money, but not enough to offset budget deficits. Similarly, all the small "pots" have already been reduced as much as they can be. That leaves the big pot: education. Voters need to clearly see the trade-offs if they reject a tax increase.

Measures to change the budget process: The change to a majority vote to pass the budget has already made it impossible for a small number of legislators to leverage their demands to hold up a budget. However, revenue increases will still have to go to the voters.

2. Initiative and Referendum Process: *Do you believe that the current initiative and referendum process in California is in need of reform? If yes, what reforms would you support?*

Yes, it is in need of reform. She said that in general it is too easy to get measures on the ballot as long as there is a funding source. It is apparently easier in California than in any other state.

3. Local League Question(s):

a. The League backed the California Disclose Act. You voted against it. Why?

Assembly member Galgiani is a moderate, so she always gets a lot of “cards” from each side of an issue seeking her support. So many matters were up for consideration at the same time that she didn’t have time to familiarize herself adequately with all of them. She said that she has spoken with the author (Brownley) and will support the measure if/when it comes up again.

b. Describe your preferred alternatives to the loss of redevelopment money in cities like Stockton.

She has co-authored legislation to restore some level of redevelopment funding and supports Senator Steinberg’s legislation to retain funds for low cost housing.

c. Cities and counties in the Delta region are concerned about the impact of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and the Delta Stewardship Council’s Delta Plan on local economies. Do you think their concerns are justified?

Neither of the interviewers thought that the Assemblywoman answered this question. She did talk about the fact that her Assembly district has included both parts of the Delta region and agricultural areas further south that have been in conflict over Delta water supplies. She will be running for a Senate seat that will be mostly in the Delta region.

d. Would you support a legislative plan to require a cost/benefit analysis of proposed conveyance infrastructure in the Delta?

She doesn’t support conveyance in the Delta at all. She is very interested in possibilities for regional water self-sufficiency, which will also be much less expensive than large-scale conveyance.

4. What other major issues do you think the Legislature must deal with in 2012? What are your personal priorities?

Job creation- the high speed rail project would create many jobs.

High-speed rail – she believes we need to start with building the backbone high speed piece between Bakersfield and Merced and then take advantage of existing rail corridors using MOUs. This is what other countries have done.