



The Voter

Coming Soon
to a
Mailbox
near you:

PROS AND CONS
for the June 3rd
election

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Annual Meeting June 19th

Our Annual Meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 19, 2008**, *Bud's Seafood & Grille* in Lincoln Center. The meeting will start at 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday
June 19th
6:00 p.m.
Bud's Seafood & Grille
Stockton
\$30.00**

- Report from President Ann Pentecost on the LWVUS Convention in Portland

On the fun side, it will be a night to visit with long time League friends—or to make new LWV friends. There will also be a “50/50” raffle fundraiser—whatever we collect, the raffle winner gets 50% and the LWVUSJC gets the other 50%. Quick and easy.

See the Annual Meeting Kit (out later in May) for rsvp information.

First things first: food! The menu will be Bud's combo meal, featuring “Bud's beef” tenderloin and marinated chicken breast, salad, potatoes and veggies, coffee or tea. We'll provide dessert. Your cost: \$30.!

The evening has always been both business and fun. On the business side, we'll

have a pretty full agenda:

- Election of new officers
- Adoption of our 2008-2008 budget
- Discussion of our financial situation—and possible consideration of a dues increase (to be decided at the May Board meeting)

More Painless Fundraising

We need to find some creative ways to add to our coffers.

nies — and nickels and dimes and quarters and Susan B. Anthony dollars. Save coins

to accept.

We have a suggestion.



We've all heard that a penny saved is a penny earned. Well, we'd like League members to save your pen-

for a month—and bring a check for what you've saved to the Annual Meeting. Or send it with a friend or via the postal service.

However you'd like to get it to us, we'd be most grateful

This is another easy fundraiser. No expensive event to attend. No need to get dressed up. Just put your spare change in a separate place each day from now until June 19th, count it and bring us a check.

In advance, THANKS!

How to contact the League:

LWVSJC
P.O. Box 4548
Stockton, CA 95204
209-465-0293
Email: LWVSJC@gmail.com
www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

President's Message — Ann Pentecost

I have one basic message this month:
THANK YOU!

Many League members have spear-headed and/or participated in League activities since our last Voter. On behalf of the League, I want to thank them all:

- Daphne Shaw coordinated the candidate forums that were broadcast on Comcast. This was Daphne's first experience with forums and she handled several challenging issues (from too little allotted time to unhappy would-be participants) with fairness, decisiveness and tact.
- Dee Matteucci represented LWVSJC as panelist for the forums.
- Vickie Markarian is coordinating

our Smart Voter participation and has calmly handled the upsurge in what is required of local Leagues involved in Smart Voter.

- Loralee McGaughey ably coordinated our participation the this year's Asparagus Festival, our chief fundraiser for the year. Thanks to Loralee and to all of you who worked at the Festival for the League this year.
- Peaches Ehrich coordinated our participation in Earth Day this year—and oversaw the student volunteers who worked at our table (and had a great time!).
- Marcia Hernandez provided our student volunteers and made sure everything worked well for all.

VOTE with the League on June 3rd

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.**

In the June 3rd election, LWVC recommends a **"NO" vote on Proposition 98** and a **"YES" vote on Proposition 99.**



uted most of the money to qualify Proposition 98 for the ballot. In addition, Proposition 98 contains language that would make it difficult to protect the environment and regulate land use, growth and development. This hidden agenda would threaten water quality, hurt the environment, and thwart regulations that protect our neighborhoods.

YES ON PROPOSITION 99 **Homeowners Protection Act**

This measure is a real eminent domain reform measure that will protect homeowners, without the hidden agendas and adverse consequences of Proposition 98. Proposition 99 will prohibit the government from using eminent domain to take a home to transfer to another private party. It is supported by a broad coalition of homeowners, business, labor, cities, counties and environmentalists.

NO ON PROPOSITION 98

Deceptive Measure Would Abolish Rent Control and Harm Environmental Protection

Californians deserve protection from eminent domain abuse, but Proposition 98 is a radical proposal that goes too far. Its extreme provisions would eliminate rent control and other renter protection laws; that is why wealthy apartment and mobile home park owners have contrib-

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2006-2007

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Off Board

Carolyn Pometta—SJC Commission on the Status of Women Liaison
473-2256, C.pometta@sbcglobal.net

Pat Thomas—Membership Secretary
Pmthomas@pacbell.net

Barbara Walker—Membership Database
463-4919 bt451@pacbell.net

Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed: Peaches Ehrich & Colleen Foster

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Sylvia Kothe, Cate White

Supreme Court Upholds Indiana Voter ID Law

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Published: April 28, 2008

WASHINGTON (AP) -- The Supreme Court ruled Monday that states can require voters to produce photo identification without violating their constitutional rights, validating Republican-inspired voter ID laws.

In a splintered 6-3 ruling, the court upheld Indiana's strict photo ID requirement, which Democrats and civil rights groups said would deter poor, older and minority voters from casting ballots. Its backers said it was needed to prevent fraud.

It was the most important voting rights case since the Bush v. Gore dispute that sealed the 2000 election for George W. Bush. But the voter ID ruling lacked the conservative-liberal split that marked the 2000 case.

The law "is amply justified by the valid interest in protecting 'the integrity and reliability of the electoral process,'" Justice John Paul Stevens said in an opinion that was joined by Chief Justice John Roberts and Anthony Kennedy. Stevens was a dissenter in Bush v. Gore in 2000.

Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas also agreed with the outcome, but wrote separately.

Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and David Souter dissented, just as they did in 2000.

More than 20 states require some form of identification at the polls. Courts have upheld voter ID laws in Arizona, Georgia and Michigan, but struck down Missouri's. Monday's decision comes a week before Indiana's presidential primary.



The decision also could spur efforts to pass similar laws in other states. Ken Falk, legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana, said he hadn't reviewed the decision, but he was "extremely disappointed" by it.

Falk has said voter ID laws inhibit voting, and a person's right to vote "is the most important right." The ACLU brought the case on behalf of Indiana voters.

The case concerned a state law, passed in 2005, that was backed by Republicans as a way to deter voter fraud. Democrats and civil rights groups opposed the law as unconstitutional and called it a thinly veiled effort to discourage elderly, poor and minority voters -- those most likely to lack proper ID and who tend to vote for Democrats.

There is little history in Indiana of either in-person voter fraud -- of the sort the law was designed to thwart -- or voters being inconvenienced by the law's requirements. For the overwhelming majority of voters, an Indiana driver license serves as the identification.

"We cannot conclude that the statute imposes 'excessively burdensome requirements' on any class of voters," Stevens

said. Stevens' opinion suggests that the outcome could be different in a state where voters could provide evidence that their rights had been impaired.

But in dissent, Souter said Indiana's voter ID law "threatens to impose nontrivial burdens on the voting rights of tens of thousands of the state's citizens."

Scalia, favoring a broader ruling in defense of voter ID laws, said, "The universally applicable requirements of Indiana's voter-identification law are eminently reasonable. The burden of acquiring, possessing and showing a free photo identification is simply not severe, because it does not 'even represent a significant increase over the usual burdens of voting.'"

Stevens said the partisan divide in Indiana, as well as elsewhere, was noteworthy. But he said that preventing fraud and inspiring voter confidence were legitimate goals of the law, regardless of who backed or opposed it.

Indiana provides IDs free of charge to the poor and allows voters who lack photo ID to cast a provisional ballot and then show up within 10 days at their county courthouse to produce identification or otherwise attest to their identity.

Stevens said these provisions also help reduce the burden on people who lack driver licenses.

LEAGUE SAYS SUPREME COURT VOTER ID DECISION "DISGRACEFUL"

Voters Cannot Look to Court to Ensure Fair Elections

"This is a disgraceful decision by a court that has no credibility on election issues. The court has shown once again that it does not respect voters," said

Mary G. Wilson, president of the League of Women Voters of the United States.

Because of the procedural status of the case, there was no record on which the Court could judge how great the burden of a photo ID requirement would be on

voters. Nonetheless, the three key justices found that the burden was not "excessively burdensome."

This finding is "intellectually as well as morally bankrupt," Wilson

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League Takes Position on California's Budget Crisis

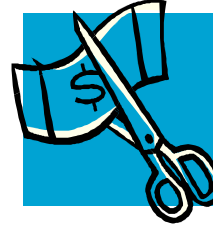
By Cate White, 2nd VP and Advocacy Chair

As you have probably seen in the news, California is facing a severe budget crisis, with an estimated \$20 billion shortfall as of this writing. Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed 10% cuts across the board starting mid-year in our current budget cycle, and continuing into next year. These proposed cuts have especially damaging impacts on education, health and human services. The May Revise of the budget is due out shortly, and deeper cuts are expected.

LWVC has posted the following statement on their web site:

We believe California's budget should invest in services and infrastructure for

the future. We oppose arbitrary across-the-board budget cuts and believe that all options, including revenue increases, must be on the table.



Additionally, LWVC has joined a statewide coalition of community, faith, union and service groups advocating a balanced solution to the budget crisis, insisting that the Legislature look at ways of raising revenues as well as considering targeted, rather than across the board, cuts. Locally, many of these same groups, known as The San Joaquin Co. Health Care Coalition, have been meeting

together for the last year and a half to address health care issues. (I have been representing LWVSJC at these meetings). The local coalition has decided to join the statewide group, turning its attention to the budget crisis during this crucial budget season.

The proposed budget cuts will affect us all, and we should be paying close attention, lobbying our legislators and holding them accountable. As the budget season progresses, we plan to be sending out alerts on specific issues, urging letter writing campaigns and other actions.

LWVUS Objects to Supreme Court Voter ID Decision

(Continued from page 3)
said.

"There is a concerted effort in this country to disenfranchise legal voters and, unfortunately, this Supreme Court has joined those ugly efforts," Wilson said.

This is a "bad decision for our democracy," Wilson asserted. "Just because the Supreme Court says a bad policy is constitutional doesn't mean legislatures should

adopt it," she said. "The League of Women Voters will be fighting against these limitations on democracy in the states and, when necessary, in Congress," she said.



"It is simply disgraceful when the Supreme Court refuses to protect the constitutional voting rights of Americans,"

Wilson said. "We can no longer look to this Supreme Court to ensure fair elections," Wilson concluded.

The League of Women Voters of Indiana, LWV of Indianapolis and the League of Women Voters of the United States filed a joint amicus brief in the Supreme Court case, Crawford v. et al.

Helen Pearson Nominees Sought

In 1978, the LWVSJC Board created an Award in memory of Helen Pearson, a two-time League president in the early 50s who was active in voter services, was a tireless observer of the City Council and Board of Supervisors, and served as LWVSJC historian and parliamentarian. **We invite League members to nominate someone for this honor.**

A few guidelines may help you decide on a nominee:

- Nominee must be a current League member

- Nominee can be a male or female and must have been a member for at least one year
- He or she should have done something exceptional in any one of the following areas:
 - ◇ Worked on a special project, area or activity (e.g., voter services, advocacy, programs, community outreach, financial support)
 - ◇ Held an executive position or other crucial Board position and performed exceptionally well

- ◇ Overall, has worked hard for the League in some capacity, showing a real sense of commitment—and a sense of humor

If you have a nominee for this award, contact Sylvia Kothe, Cate White or Vickie Markarian.

Recipient will be announced at the Annual Meeting.

*The Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy * / ***

Presents

**The 1st Annual
WALDO MUSIC FEST**

Starting Waldo's Favorite Bands

Dirk Hamilton * Stringin' Along * Dave Halford

Calaveras River Bank

3536 Rainier Avenue, Stockton

Saturday * May 31 2008

Noon—6:00 p.m.

\$25.00

INFO: Eric @209-462-4808 or
email friends@waldoconservancy.org

**The Waldo Holt San Joaquin Wildlife Conservancy* is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation legacy of Waldo Holt through the purchase of wildlife habitat. See <http://www.waldoconservancy.org> for more information.

The Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment has set up a special fund to help the Waldo Hold Conservancy raise tax-deductible contributions to preserve sensitive habitat in San Joaquin County. Donations to this fund are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE to **Rose Foundation/Waldo Holt Fund.**

*Bring lawn chairs and blankets!
Silent Auction—wine., art and MORE—*

Tickets available at these Stockton locations

Stockton Friends of the Library Bookstore, 1724 W. Hammer Lane

Replay Records, 7600 Pacific Avenue

Java Aroma/Empire Theatre, 1825 Pacific Avenue

Simply Charming, 2113 Pacific Avenue

Blackwater Annex, 13 S. San Joaquin

*** LWVSJC worked closely with Waldo Holt in the development of SJ County's Habitat Plan. Members of the League may wish to continue to assist in habitat preservation by supporting the Holt Conservancy.*



League of Women Voters
of San Joaquin County
P.O. Box 4548
Stockton, CA 95204

www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

CALENDAR

Registration deadline for voting in the June 3rd election: May 3, 2008.

ANNUAL MEETING: June 19, 2008—6:00 p.m. BUD'S SEAFOOD RESTAURANT: \$30.00

LWVC Leadership Council is scheduled for May 16-18, 2008 in Sacramento.

LWVUS Convention: June 13-17, 2008, Portland, Oregon

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at Hospice of San Joaquin.

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.