



The Voter

**League Kickoff!
First General
Membership Meeting
Friday
October 10, 2008
Valley Brew
157 W. Adams
Stockton
5:30—social
6:00—Program:
Senator Mike Machado**

Senator Mike Machado Invited as Speaker

Senator Mike Machado has been invited to be the speaker for the League’s first General Membership Meeting of the new League year.



SENATOR
MIKE MACHADO

The Senator was asked to choose what topics he would like to address—and the possibilities are numerous:

- Water
- Peripheral Canal
- State Budgeting
- Reflections of a legislator
- How to make the California Legislature work better!
- The future of Mike Machado

The Senator may choose any, all—or none of the

and in the State Senate from 2000-2008. He is a pragmatic legislator who has supported education reform, balanced environmental regulations and tax relief for all Californians.

During his tenure, Mike established himself as an expert in and advocate for water issues. He authored the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection.

above. But whatever the focus of his remarks, they are certain to come from a depth of experience garnered throughout a distinguished legislative career, having served in the Assembly from 1994-2000

Mike has always made time for the League, listening to our concerns and positions on issues. He has been gracious and insightful, even if he didn’t agree with us all the time. He will get our year off to a great start.

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Legislature Passes SB840—Again!

For the second time, the Legislature has passed SB840, the Single Payer Health Care plan.

For the second time, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger plans to veto the bill which would expand health coverage to most

Californians.

The League has long been an advocate of the bill championed by termed out Senator Sheila Kuehl. **It’s time for us to make our voices heard in support of SB840.**

Write Gov. Schwarzenegger at : State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814 or call: (916)445-2841.

Calls can be made as an individual or as a League member.

How to contact the League:

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

President's Message — Peaches Ehrich

We are already well into the General Election season with Smart Voter activities (see Vickie's article) and the Comcast Candidate Forums on 9/24 focusing on Stockton city races, local Senate and Assembly races. The Board has also taken up advocacy in the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (see Jane's article below). Add to the energy: join us at our Kickoff Meeting on October 10th! — *Peach*

Board Action:

At its September meeting, the Board approved a request by Jane Wagner-Tyack, co-chair of the Environmental Committee, to ask LWVC to protest the process being followed by the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). The BDCP is the vehicle being used by Governor Schwarzenegger and the Department of Water Resources to plan for a peripheral canal.

The BDCP is part of the 10-year action plan that was created following the 1994 Bay-Delta Accord. Its purpose is "to help recover endangered and sensitive species and their habitats in the Delta in a way that will also provide for sufficient

and reliable water supplies." In practice, this has come to mean providing for water supplies to "potential regulated entities" (mostly water export interests) outside the Delta. In the last year, the BDCP has moved quickly to begin work on an EIR/EIS for a project moving Sacramento River water around or through the Delta in an "isolated conveyance" (read Peripheral Canal).

The BDCP steering committee includes no representatives from San Joaquin County or from Delta water agencies. And the plan's process includes protocols that give the potential regulated entities the deciding voice in any decision of the steering committee. This lack of local involvement in the planning process violates League policy positions on land use, natural resources, representative government, and intergovernmental relationships.

We will keep you posted on any action agreed to by LWVC.

Smart Voter Kicks Into Gear

As of Tuesday, Sept. 16, letters went out to all the candidates whose names will appear on the November 4, 2008, ballot for San Joaquin County, inviting them to set up their sites and submit biographical information on themselves and their positions on local issues. All together, there are 158 candidates' names that will appear on various ballots throughout the county. They include everything from candidates for U.S. Congress, to the State Legislature, to County Supervisors, City Council Members, Mayors, School Boards of Trustees, and even Fire District Officials. It's a really large number of people involved this election, and many offices are "up for grabs." Of course, your ballot will only reflect the names of those people affecting your particular area.



Some of the candidates have already responded and are getting their sites up on Smart Voter. As they come in, your County Coordinator (that's me!) will review them for completeness and appropriateness before finally approving them for release to the public. Last election cycle, Smart Voter received a record number of hits from voters, so we're hoping that trend holds for this election as well.

In the meantime, several dates and venues have been set up for Speakers Bureau to present the Pros & Cons on the ballot measures. There are a lot of propositions this time around, so it will be a busy election season. I'll try to keep you posted on how it's all progressing.

- Vickie Markarian

LWVSJC Board of Directors for 2008-2009

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Nominating Committee

Dee Matteucci, Chair; Tandy Gotschall, Sally Miller and two Board members to be appointed

Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Sylvia Kothe and Cate White

Yale Trains the Next Generation of Women Political Leaders

Katrina Alison Jaggears, LWVSJC Board of Directors—bottom row, third from left—attended the Women’s Campaign School at Yale this summer. Here are some of her thoughts on the experience.

Where might one have the opportunity to learn everything there is to know about running a campaign for public office while working and training with women from all over the United States, as well as the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Burma, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and St. Kitts, who are attorneys, journalists, college students and professors, political consultants, business owners, PAC fundraisers, state legislative directors, environmentalists, election officials, and even former Miss America contestants, range in age from 20-something to 50-something, and represent both the Republican and Democratic parties? I recently had the privilege of spending five hectic, information-packed, and absolutely phenomenal days in the company of 52 smart, confident, assertive, accomplished, and driven individuals at just such a place – The Women’s Campaign School at Yale University.

Now in its 14th year, The Women’s Campaign School (WCS) at Yale is a non-partisan, non-issues based political leadership training program held each summer at Yale Law School. The pace is intense (some prefer to describe it as “efficient”), as participants spend five consecutive 12-

to 16-hour days training with experts – all of the instructors are women, by the way – in the areas of campaign plan, message, and strategy; budget development; campaign speech crafting; earned and paid media; online campaigns; grassroots strategies; polling and research; the role of personal relationships in politics; crisis communication; cultivating financial contributors; debate preparation; and GOTV (“get out the vote”) strategies,



among other subjects.

Harold Hongju Koh, Dean of the Yale Law School, said in his opening remarks, “The skills you learn here are important for any leadership activity, not just running for public office.”

That assessment was correct, as in addition to campaign training, we received instruction in event and advance management, ethics, and presentation and public speaking skills, as well as individual coaching in video presentation.

Applicants to the WCS must submit an application, essay, and two letters of recommendation. The school prefers students with campaign experience and/or some previous campaign training.

Admission is competitive; over 100 women applied for the 2008 class. The course is also expensive – this summer’s tuition, which included all training sessions and meals, was \$950, not including travel and lodging. Understandably, participants are encouraged to raise funds to cover the expense. I was extremely fortunate to receive a faculty grant from University of the Pacific to cover my tuition and airfare, a sizeable financial contribution from the San Joaquin County Democratic Central Committee to cover lodging, and smaller individual donations from family members, friends, and colleagues.

Our training culminated in small-group mock campaign presentations, for which we spent exhausting late nights and wee morning hours preparing. After all of the presentations were critiqued, it was time for graduation.

It was quite uplifting to experience Democratic, Republican, and international women working as one toward the WCS’s goal “to increase the number and influence of women in elected and appointed governmental and political positions.” The Women’s Campaign School at Yale is an extraordinary experience that I would recommend to anyone who wants to receive first-rate training in political leadership.

Notes on a Meeting with Assemblymember Greg Aghazarian

Advocacy Director Cate White spear-headed June’s meeting that focused on the California Budget situation. In August, Cate joined members of the San Joaquin County Health Care Coalition in a meeting with Assemblymember Aghazarian. A few comments from that meeting are reported here:

- He would like to see Medi-Cal cuts go from 5% to zero because cuts to Medi-Cal are more costly, it doesn’t

save money.

- He didn’t support the Governor’s State employee pay cut.
- He thought education would survive the budget process intact.

He also said “if he were King”

- The Legislature would not be responsible for redistricting (!)
- Term limits should be revisited and extended

- The State should go to a 2-year budget cycle
- There should be a limit on the number of policy bills
- THEN the law should be changed to let the budget be passed by a simple majority.

He also said—on August 8th—that he thought the Legislature was ‘closer to a budget’. Hopeful—but off by a month!

Winning the Vote for Women

Commemorating Women's Equality Day—Sally Miller

The two towering figures in the struggle for equal rights for women did not live to see women win the right to vote.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony were the acknowledged leaders of the Woman's Rights Movement of the nineteenth century. In fact, it was Stanton who called the first conference on woman's rights to be held anywhere in the world. That conference met in 1848 in her hometown of Seneca Falls, New York. A few hundred people attended and wrote a document paraphrasing the Declaration of Independence in which they demanded that women be accorded the inalienable rights due all human beings. Anthony was not at that conference although some of her relatives were. Within a couple of years, however, she joined the emerging woman's movement. She became its chief strategist and campaigner, traveling across the country promoting equal rights for women, while Stanton, its acknowledged theoretician and orator, usually remained at her home with her young children. Both women lived into the early twentieth century, and while they had the satisfaction of seeing women win a number of fundamental rights, the struggle for the vote took seven decades, far longer than anyone predicted. They died before it was achieved.

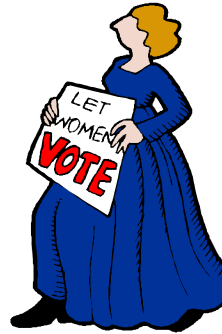
Progress toward equal rights came first in the western states, even though those areas did not have a nucleus of woman's rights groups that emerged back east. But because the region was newly settled, no established traditions of legal inequality existed. Everything was new, and so innovative ways of thinking and flexibility meant women could hold property, serve on school boards and, among other things, vote. Equal rights arguments were seldom voiced but instead it was maintained that the presence of women in public roles would be civilizing influences on roughhewn frontier society.

Accordingly, and without elaborate campaigns, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, and Idaho granted women the right to vote between 1869 and 1896.

The state of California was not far behind the Mountain States in allowing women public participation. In 1878, San Joaquin County's own Laura de Force Gordon, a journalist, lawyer, and suffragist, convinced the State Legislature to repeal a law which excluded women from admission to the bar, and it accepted her draft of a clause for a new state constitution forbidding the exclusion of women from the business and professional worlds. In 1911, California women won the right to vote, and in that same decade, all other western states except one extended the vote to women.

East of the Mississippi River, however, the long-settled and more tradition-bound states did not grant women the right to vote. Extensive campaigning on the precinct level by women won very few converts among the male electorate, as shown by the fact that as late as 1917 only Illinois and New York State allowed women to vote in that entire region of the country. Finally, under the auspices of the nation-wide National American Woman Suffrage Association, state-level campaigns were de-emphasized in favor of the goal of a constitutional amendment so that all American women would win, by that one measure, the right to vote. By then, seventy years after the Seneca Falls conference, the idea of women exercising the ballot did not seem as startling as so many had thought earlier. In addition, the fact that the United States in 1917 had joined the Allied side in World War One -- viewing it as a struggle to

spread democracy around the globe -- made it impossible to withhold a basic right of citizenship from one-half of the U.S. population.



Under the auspices of the NAWSA led by Anna Howard Shaw and Carrie Chapman Catt, intense lobbying of the U.S. Congress and of President Woodrow Wilson was carried out. Simultaneously, a radical group of women took to the streets, under the leadership of Quaker Alice Paul, who had

witnessed assertive, "unladylike" tactics by suffragists in England when she worked there. These American women picketed the White House, got themselves arrested, conducted hunger strikers, and in other ways did not permit the public to ignore the issue of female suffrage. With all of these pressures and forces at play, both houses of Congress passed the suffrage amendment at the end of the war, and by 1920 the necessary three-fourths of the states had ratified the amendment. The date of the memorable event was August 26, 1920. The NAWSA promptly dissolved, and then immediately reorganized itself as the League of Women Voters, taking up the task of educating new voters to their civic responsibilities. In the meantime, the radical women of the era under Alice Paul soon announced the goal of an Equal Rights Amendment to the constitution. Looking back, one can surmise that Anthony and Stanton would have embraced both causes.

Sally Miller is a League member, former League Board member, Professor Emeritus of History at the University of the Pacific and the 2008 Helen Pearson recipient.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA HAS ANNOUNCED ITS POSITIONS ON THE NOVEMBER 2008 BALLOT MEASURES

PROP 3: Children's Hospital Bond Act—SUPPORT

Proposition 3 authorizes \$980 million in bonds to fund regional children's hospitals to provide specialized care for children with serious illnesses or injuries without regard to a family's ability to pay. They treat the majority of California's low-income children. Prop 3 will address escalating construction costs and improve health care access for children who are indigent, uninsured, underinsured or eligible for government health programs.

PROP 5: Nonviolent Drug Offenses, Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation—SUPPORT

Proposition 5 would require the state to expand treatment and rehabilitation for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees, and reduce the criminal consequences of nonviolent offenses. Additional costs of treatment would be offset by reductions in prison and parole operating costs, as well as in the need for capital outlay for prison facilities. The League's study of juvenile justice affirmed the need to give funding priority to prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

PROP 11: Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act—STRONG SUPPORT

It is an inherent conflict of interest for legislators to draw their own districts to guarantee their reelection.

Proposition 11 removes from the legislature the power to redraw district boundaries for the State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization after each census. Instead, it provides for the appointment of a 14-member independent citizens commission to perform this process, establishes clear criteria for how the

boundaries shall be drawn, and requires an open and transparent process with due notice, public hearings, and no communications outside of the hearings. This measure will hold politicians accountable and help stop the gridlock in Sacramento that keeps

pressing issues from being addressed.



PROP 4: Waiting Period and Parental Notification of Minor's Pregnancy—OPPOSE

Prop 4 requires a physician to notify the parent of a pregnant minor before performing an abortion.

Mandatory notification laws may sound good but, in the real world, they put the health and safety of teens in danger. Good family communication can't be imposed by government. California voters have rejected this proposal twice, but proponents have put it on the ballot again, adding more unreasonable provisions.

PROP 6: Police and Law Enforcement Funding, Criminal Penalties and Laws (Runner Initiative) - OPPOSE

This measure requires that nearly \$1 billion annually in state general funds be used for designated local law enforcement and probation programs. The League opposes the further restriction on the ongoing use of general funds. Harmful policy changes in this initiative include prosecuting more 14-year-olds as adults and giving counties less flexibility in the use of drug and mental health funds for juveniles.

PROP 7: Renewable Energy Generation - OPPOSE

Proposition 7 requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 50 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2025.

While the League supports a renew-

able energy target, we feel this is too optimistic to be achieved, and well beyond the targets for implementing the landmark greenhouse-gas emissions reduction law, AB 32.

PROP 8: Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry - OPPOSE

This proposed limitation of marriage as only between a man and a woman infringes on the equal rights that should be available to all people. The League opposed Proposition 22 in 2000 and continues to oppose such limits on the basic civil rights that should be guaranteed to all Californians.

PROP 9: Criminal Justice System, Victims' Rights, Parole - OPPOSE

This initiative asks voters to support victims' rights that are already protected under state law and is unnecessary.

PROP 10: Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy Bonds—OPPOSE

This measure would authorize the sale of \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to provide rebates to purchasers of certain high fuel economy and alternative fuel vehicles, and to fund grants and other incentives for technology development. The League believes the purposes of this bond are not an appropriate use for state-issued, bond-generated revenues.

PROP 1: High-Speed Rail Bonds - Decision Pending

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **Proposition 2**, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and **Proposition 12**, Veterans' Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

Focus on LWVUS & LWVC

At the National Level League Urges Congress to Choose Clean Energy Over Drilling

LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson joined with other environmental groups to urge the House and Senate to adopt forward-looking policies that would produce real changes in energy investments and reject calls to return to the old way of powering our economy.



“Congress has an historic opportunity to spur investment in the clean energy economy that will lower energy costs, create jobs, strengthen national security, reduce dependence on fossil fuels, and protect the environment, especially with respect to addressing global warming.”

The letter, co-signed by representatives of the Alaska Wilderness League, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Defense, the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth, among many others, goes on to say “more drilling in protected areas will not reduce high gas prices, but will irreversibly damage long-protected special coastal and wilderness areas.

“Reducing our dependence on oil will cut fuel costs in half, create millions of green jobs, and significantly reduce the trade deficit by checking the flow of petrodollars out of America to hostile nations. “

The letter calls for immediate consumer relief from soaring gas prices, putting more efficient vehicles on the road and instituting incentives for clean energy.

“America is on the cusp of a new energy revolution based on clean, efficient, low-carbon sources to power our cars, our businesses and our homes. Congress can enact policies that produce real changes in the way we generate, price, and distribute clean energy.”

Message on Nonpartisanship from LWVUS President Mary G. Wilson

“As we move into the general election phase of this campaign, I wanted to take this opportunity to remind members of a few important points to keep in mind this election year. The League of Women Voters' most valuable asset, in addition to our volunteers, is its name and therefore, we must take great care in maintaining our reputation and strict nonpartisanship.

As we all work to enhance our visibility and strengthen relationships with the media around the voter services Leagues provide to our communities, I want to remind Leagues that questions from all media and journalists seeking comments and reactions from the League of Women Voters organization about candidates for President and Vice President of the United States should only be answered by the LWVUS. Unfortunately, we have seen well-intentioned comments result in members being misquoted or misinterpreted and therefore potentially putting the League's valued nonpartisanship reputation in danger.”

Mary Wilson asks that any inquiries from local media on the national election be referred to the LWVUS office.

California League Focus

Yes on Prop 11
Time to Hold Politicians Accountable

Redistricting - The Campaign for Prop 11 Begins!

Now that the California Voters FIRST initiative has qualified as Proposition 11 on the November ballot, the League's effort to achieve meaningful redistricting reform in California is

entering its most crucial phase. We are expecting a hard-fought electoral battle in the fall, and as the summer winds down, state and local League leaders and volunteers are gearing up for the campaign.



Visit www.yesprop11.org to learn more about the Yes on Prop 11 campaign.

Former Assembly Member and League Leader Marilyn Ryan Dies

The LWVC pays tribute to former state Assembly Member and League leader Marilyn Ryan, who died on June 22, 2008 at the age of 75.

Ryan first became politically active in her thirties, when she joined the League of Women Voters. She went on to serve as president of the LWV Palos Verdes Peninsula and as an LWVC board member. Ryan was elected as the first mayor of Rancho Palos Verdes in 1973. In 1976, she became the first Republican woman elected to the Assembly since 1952. She served in the Assembly until 1982.

As a legislator, she was known for her interest in land use issues, tax reform, and energy policy. In a 1979 interview with the Los Angeles Times, when asked why she pursued a career in politics, Ryan said: “You have to be optimistic about the process and believe in it, and I do.”



League Members in the News

LEAGUE MEMBER APPOINTED TO US ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

Barbara Simons of the Los Altos/Mountain View LWV has been appointed by Senator Harry Reid to the Board of Advisers of the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC). The Board of Advisers serves the three Commissioners who are appointed by the President and confirmed by Congress.

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) was established by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). EAC is an independent, bipartisan commission charged with developing guidance to meet HAVA requirements, adopting voluntary voting system guidelines, and serving as a national clearing-

house of information about election administration. EAC also accredits testing laboratories and certifies voting systems, as well as audits the use of HAVA funds

Barbara will be the only computer scientist or technologist on the Board of Advisers itself. Although not serving as a LWV representative, last year Barbara was appointed by LWVUS to the national League's Audit Task Force. She is a gracious and tireless advocate for voting rights.

Dr. Simons received the 2005 Alumnus of the Year Award from the Berkeley College of Engineering -- Computer Science Department. She was the first woman ever to receive the award.

- Diane Park

Colorado LWV Forms Coalition

Kudos to the LWV of Colorado for forming the Protect Families Protect Choices Coalition--an impressive list of partners-- to oppose Colorado's Amendment 48 to their state constitution. It's the first of its kind in the country designed to re-define personhood, outlaw most methods of birth control, and threaten patient privacy and high quality health care.

Amendment 48 would define the term person to include a fertilized egg in the Colorado State constitution.

"Giving legal rights to fertilized eggs has serious consequences. Amendment 48 would impact literally thousands of laws and threaten quality health care and patient privacy."

RENEWALS WELCOME NOW!

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Dues are not tax deductible.

Dues year is July 1—June 30

I want renew my membership in the League of Women Voters:

Dues: _____ \$60 [individual] _____ \$75 [sustaining] _____ \$75 [household] _____ \$30 [student]

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone: (home) _____ (work) _____

Email _____

**Please make checks payable to LWVSJC and mail to:
LWVSJC P.O Box 4548 Stockton, CA 95204**

_____ I would like to make a tax deductible donation to the League Education Fund. Following LWVC guidelines, if you wish to make a contribution to the Ed Fund, please submit a separate check to LWVSJC Ed Fund and send it to the above address. This will help to insure the Ed Fund status as a charitable and tax deductible organization. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. ***Thank you for your generosity.***



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

www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org

Please Pay Your Dues NOW.

CALENDAR

October 10, 2008—5:30 p.m. - Kickoff Program, Valley Brew, 157 W. Adams, Stockton

Senator Mike Machado will be featured. 5:30 Social/Order dinner; 6:00 Program

PLEASE RSVP by October 6th

to beaal@comcast.net or 464-3233 if you will be able to attend.

October 18, 2008—9:30 a.m.— Stockton Branch of the AAUW Meet & Greet the Candidates O'Connor Woods League members are invited to attend.

October 24, 2008—7:00—10:00 p.m.— **Candidate Forums** for Stockton City Council and Mayor, Assembly District 10 and State Senate District 5. Co-sponsored by the League, Comcast and The Record. Forums will be broadcast live from Comcast Studios on Tam O'Shanter and will be rebroadcast regularly before the November 4th General Election. The forums will also be available On Demand.

Board Meetings

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton.

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