



# The Voter

## Running for Office

Saturday  
March 7, 2009

9:30 a.m.—refreshments  
10:00 a.m. —Program

Hospice of San Joaquin  
3888 Pacific Avenue  
Stockton

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## Running for Office: True Tales from the Campaign Trail

In 1920, women in America were *finally* given the right to vote. In the last eighty eight years, women have gone from voters to candidates to office holders.

On Saturday, March 7th, the League will present a panel of women who have run for office in San Joaquin County. They will tell us what it is *really* like on the campaign trail— why they ran for office, the challenges of raising money and finding volunteers, ethical aspects of being a candidate, the joy of winning and the deep disappointment of defeat. Join us to hear their stories:

### Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston

Ann began her civic commitment as a Peace Corps volunteer in Iran as a recent college graduate. Locally, Ann was a Lodi Unified Trustee from 1979-1992 and a Stockton City Councilperson from 1995-2002. Ann ran for Mayor in 2004 and was elected in 2008. Ann owns the Balloonery, is a Susan B. Anthony Woman of Achievement, Athena Award winner and a member of LWVSJC.

### Trustee Van Ha To-Cowell

Van Ha is also a member of the League. A teacher in the Lodi Unified School District and mother of Lincoln students, she is committed to education and educational achievement. A volunteer on five LUSD advisory com-



Ann Johnston



Alyson Huber



Van Ha To-Cowell



Mary Ann Cox



Anne Baird

mittees, she ran for Lincoln School Board in 2006 and was elected Trustee in 2008.

### Alyson Huber, Assembly/D10

In her first venture as a candidate, Alyson Huber squeaked out a win the sprawling 10th Assembly District in a seat considered 'unwinable' by political pundits. A Lodi High graduate, the El Dorado Hills resident is an attorney practicing business litigation and intellectual property law.

### Mary Ann Cox, Delta Trustee

Delta College Professor Dr. Mary Ann Cox was successful in her first run for office, being elected as Trustee in the 5-county Delta College district. Retiring as Dean of Instruction after a varied 27-year career at Delta, Mary Ann spearhead the Passport to College program before deciding to run for office.

### Anne Baird, District Director for Alyson Huber

Anne was Mike Machado's District Director for his entire time in office. She loves campaigning and has helped a vast number of SJ County Democrats get elected to office since the 1970's. A founding member of the Women's Center and a Susan B. Anthony Woman of Achievement, Anne ran for San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors in District 2 in 2006.

## Celebrating Women's History Month

The first American women's rights convention was held in 1848 at Seneca Falls, New York. At that convention, the delegates adopted a platform that called for a broad range of social, economic, legal, and political reforms that would dramatically raise the status of women in American life. To the surprise of most of us today, the demand for women's right to vote (called woman suffrage) was the most controversial reform proposed at the convention. From the time it was first formally proposed in 1848, gaining the right to vote took the women's movement **72 years of struggle** to achieve. For a great pictorial exhibit on suffragists, go to the National Women's History Mu-

seum Web site: [www.nwhm.org](http://www.nwhm.org). Here's a preview:



Alice Paul, leader of the militant National Woman's Party, toasts the Party's banner (with grape juice!) after the passage of the suffrage

This suffrage button uses a golden sunburst with the slogan "Votes for Women."



## CONGRESSIONAL INTERVIEW

Boardmembers Cate White, Pat Thomas and Bea Lingenfelter followed up on the suggestions of LWVUS and requested an interview with area Congressman Jerry McNerney. They were able to meet with him when he was in the district on Saturday, February 7th. LWVUS urged local Leagues to contact their representatives to discuss issues of interest to the League—in our case, health care, climate change and partisanship in Congress.

**Health Care:** Congressman McNerney acknowledged that something needs to be done to improve healthcare coverage. He indicated that prevention and IT were important. He feels that cost controls and more stringent regulation of insurance companies are in order. He stated that there are some good aspects to the Single Payer bill, H.R. 676, which could probably be used in some sort of compromise bill.

**Climate Change:** Congressman McNerney strongly supports cap and trade legislation. Energy is one of his top priorities and areas of expertise. He also believes in developing alternative fuels and promoting conservation.

**Partisanship:** One solution the Congressman sees to partisanship is reform of election financing. He said he wasn't sure that public financing was the answer, but he is in favor of better controls on fund raising and laws requiring more media access. He indicated media access is a key since it is so important to campaigns and also very expensive. He acknowledged that partisanship is a major problem and stated that most representatives have good intentions, but become entrenched in dogmatic positions. He feels the first step is that both sides need to desire compromise---one side alone is not enough.

**Peripheral Canal:** We briefly discussed Gov. Schwarzenegger's proposal to build a Peripheral Canal. The canal would have a great impact in our area. Consequently, our League is monitoring this issue closely, taking a stand against the lack of local input in the process through which the canal is being pursued. Congressman McNerney has written a letter questioning the need for the canal and we thanked him for his position.

### 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. Bea Lingenfelter and **Esther Vasquez** have been selected to complete the Committee.

#### Helen Pearson Award Committee

Vickie Markarian, Chair; Sylvia Kothe and Cate White

# LWVUS Study: National Popular Vote—PRO

## National Popular Vote:

### Supporting Arguments

Excerpted from arguments developed by the LWVUS NPV Study Committee: Gail Dryden (CA), Barbara Klein (AZ), Sue Lederman (NJ), Carol Mellor (NY), and Jack Sullivan (CA)

The League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) already has a position in favor of abolition of the Electoral College and adoption of the "direct-popular-vote" method for electing the president and the vice president. The NPV Compact proposes a way to accomplish the goal of using the direct popular vote for presidential elections.

### CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

**Difficulty of Amending the Constitution.** Amendment of the Constitution to eliminate the Electoral College would accomplish the goal of election of the president by popular vote, but that is a very long process with uncertain results. Most of the electorate is also in favor of a system in which the candidate who receives the most votes wins – over 70 percent in some polls favor a direct election for president. A more rapid, direct path to the national popular vote would be in the interests of the electorate.

**Amendment Not Necessary.** No constitutional amendment is needed to implement the NPV Compact. Under the U.S. Constitution, the states already have the right and power to implement the change.

### EVALUATING FAIRNESS

**President of the Minority.** Voters assume that the candidate who wins an election will be the candidate that received the most votes. When the "victor" actually receives fewer votes than another candidate, people are led to question the nature of our electoral system. This problem is eliminated under the NPV Compact.

**Few Battleground States.** Under the current Electoral College system, presidential campaigns focus on a few key states which are the determinants of an Electoral College victory or loss. Under the NPV Compact, voters across the country would have a sense that their vote would indeed count in a meaningful way and this would provide stimulus for greater attention to the campaign and greater participation in the electoral process.



**Influencing the Winner.** Critics of the NPV Compact claimed that "11 colluding states" could theoretically impose their will on the country because those states contain the majority of the population and account for the 270 electoral votes needed for the Compact to take effect. While these 11 largest states do contain 56 per cent of the population, the real likelihood of such "collusion" is extremely small as they have little in common politically. Of the 11 states, recently five tended to vote Republican (Texas, Florida, Ohio, North Carolina, and Georgia) and six tended to vote Democratic (California, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Michigan and New Jersey). Support for the NPV Compact has been across the board so far and in no way limited to the largest states.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

"Mechanical issues" such as recounts and voter fraud were also addressed by the Pro arguments:

It is anticipated that the need for recounts will diminish under the NPV Compact because, although the vote count can be extremely close in battleground states, the numbers are not close on a nationwide basis.

The adoption of the NPV Compact would diminish the danger of both voter fraud and election fraud/voter suppression.

### LEAGUE ISSUES

**Uniform Standards.** The LWVUS supports uniform national voting standards. The NPV Compact aims for having all the states become members of the compact, and thus shares the goal of a uniform and universal method of electing the President. The fact that the Compact will become effective at a time when states representing 270 electoral votes have joined does not change the ultimate goal that all states adopt the Compact. Further, the NPV Compact creates uniform standards because every national vote would be counted equally if it were to go into effect.

### CONCLUDING ARGUMENTS SUPPORTING THE NPV COMPACT

One of the most compelling arguments in support of the NPV Compact is that this method ensures that the candidate who receives the most votes in the national election is elected President, and does so by using the Electoral College system of electing the President of the United States. Amending the U.S. Constitution in order to eliminate the Electoral College and, instead, establish the direct election of the president is much more cumbersome and much less likely to succeed. Above all, the most appealing argument in support of the NPV Compact is that every vote, of every party and of every voter is counted fairly and equally.

Complete arguments in favor of the National Popular Vote Compact can be found on the LWVUS Web site: [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org).

# Green in the News

One of the top legislative priorities for LWVUS is climate change. But the League is not the only organization focusing on **Going Green**. Some groups, like the Sierra Club, we expect to be pushing green-ness. However, information on industries that are going green or tips on being greener in our everyday life come from surprisingly varied sources. Here are a few excerpts from magazines outlining how green is becoming an industry standard or how we can do more as individuals to combat climate change.



## Hispanic Business Magazine

It's May 2008 issue focused on Hispanic Business Going **Green!** They devoted nearly half of the issue to cleantech and green investing. "In the past" the magazine stated, "green investments were morally-fuelled in an effort to promote environmental protections or support companies with socially responsible labor practices or products. Today, consumers can't get enough green products and their sales are shoving many companies' margins into the black." An article on Green Investing quoted the founder and editor of The Green Money Journal, Cliff Feigenbaum: "Green investing helps you make money while you make a difference." Articles focused on Green technology

- Green Building Boom: Architects, Builders and Buyers Seek Energy-Efficient Solutions
- New Fiber Optics Make Subways Cleaner, Greener
- Hispanic Efforts Turn Wind into Cash for Small Businesses

## Wine Spectator

**Wine Goes Green** boasted the June 30, 2007 issue of *Wine Spectator* which proclaimed that West Coast Vintners Fight for the Environment. Citing efforts that range from the move to cut chemicals

from wine growing practices in favor of sustainable, organic or biodynamic ones to the use of Scottish Highland cows to naturally mow and fertilize vineyards, California winemakers are definitely going green. (Note: when in the Napa Valley recently, I saw a herd of sheep and lambs nibbling on vegetation between rows of vines. This trend certainly seems to have grown since 2007!) Wine makers have sought innovative ways to save energy, fuel and water—from the use of Biodiesel to the use of natural cooling via caves to recycling to reduce landfill waste to using solar power on their vast rooftops and sun-exposed fields to provide all or part of their electricity needs to better water management. Encouraging these practices is something consumers might consider when shopping for wine for dinner.

My favorite article, though, and the one that surprised me the most (though maybe it shouldn't have) was "50 Easy Ways to Eat Green" in the February 2009 issue of *bon appetit*. It's my favorite possibly—probably!—because it begins with EAT MORE CHOCOLATE (fair trade and organic).

The article starts out by saying "IF ONLY EATING GREEN were as simple as going to a farmers' market, buying organic, and reusing that shopping tote ... That's a darn good start, but there are so many other ways to shop, cook, dine out and even clean that can have a more meaningful impact on our environment." Their 50 tips are designed to cut down on landfill, pesticide use, over-fishing and the consumption of fossil fuels. The tips "will also slow down the depletion of the ozone layer, encourage the humane treatment of livestock, improve the welfare of workers, reduce toxic chemicals in your home and likely make you healthier." WOW.

## Here are a few of their tips:

- BOIL ONCE, COOK TWICE: use the

residual heat from pasta water to poach shrimp.

- FILL UP YOUR FREEZER: it uses less energy than an empty one.
- DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR: every time you peek in the oven, you lose 25-50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- COOK MORE OFTEN: you'll avoid much of the packaging and preservatives of processed foods.
- BECOME A HUMAN FOOD PROCESSOR: use less electricity by getting handier with your knife.
- GET THE SCOOP: buy in bulk.
- Plant an heirloom vegetable garden.
- BE YOUR OWN BARISTA: it will have a big impact on your budget and the landfill if you make your own coffee. Buy fair trade organic coffee, use a *French press*, take your coffee in a portable mug.
- EAT AMERICAN CHEESE.
- VEG OUT: vegetables require less energy and water to grow and produce no greenhouse gases.
- EAT SUSTAINABLE SHRIMP.
- BECOME A LOCAVORE: locavores eat only food that has been grown or produced near their homes which supports their community and cuts down on their carbon footprint. 100-miles is a fair radius.
- GO BENTO: reusable lunch boxes instead of paper bags
- USE YOUR DISHWASHER: when full and well organized, it can outperform a human being in water efficiency.
- MIX YOUR DRINKS: consider working boxed wine into your wine-drinking routine— it generates half as many carbon-dioxide emissions in transport and has recently risen in quality.

Bon Appetit!

# LWVUS Study: National Popular Vote—CON

## National Popular Vote:

### Opposing Arguments

Excerpted from arguments developed by the LWVUS NPV Study Committee members Gail Dryden and Barbara Klein.

There is clearly a lack of respect for the Electoral College. The League of Women Voters opposes it. In Gallup surveys, support for its abolition in favor of direct popular vote has never fallen below 58 per cent. Nonetheless, the Electoral College has more than 700 Constitutional amendments proposed to abolish or substantially alter it. All have failed.



Enter the National Popular Vote Compact—a way to change the way the President is elected without having to amend the Constitution. Opponents of the NPV Compact focus on the plan for its limitations and problems as well as at problems with the Electoral College that are not addressed by the NPV Compact.

### CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

**Political Compacts.** Constitutionally, political compacts are permitted between states, but all require **congressional approval**. Under the Constitution's Compact Clause any changes that create a shift in political power require congressional consent. Therefore, without congressional consent the NPV Compact may not be enforceable.

**Non-Compacting States.** States not endorsing the Compact could become a fundamental concern constitutionally because the interests of states which have not signed the Compact could be greatly diminished.

**Constitutional Protections.** The U.S. Constitution is written to protect the interests of the states in order that all states will play a role in the electoral process. The NPV Compact allows as few as 11

states to determine a presidential election and could shift political power between states that are and are not party to the Compact.

**EVALUATING FAIRNESS Support for a State's Winning Candidate.** Voters supporting the candidate who wins their state would want their state's electors to support their choice. If a state's legislature has adopted the NPV Compact, that state's secretary of state would be required to certify electors representing the candidate who is the winner of the national popular vote—not necessarily the candidate who wins the popular vote within the state.

**Battleground States.** Those supporting the NPV Compact argue that in the current system the election is fought in a few battleground states where the Electoral College votes are at stake. The NPV Compact creates a different scenario, but not necessarily a better one. The majority of the population of the United States resides in concentrated urban areas. In order to gain the most popular votes, a candidate will tend to campaign primarily in areas of dense population, ignoring sparsely populated rural areas.

**Influencing the Winner.** The NPV Compact takes effect if enough states have 'signed on' to represent 270 electoral votes. The 11 largest states together have the 270 electoral votes that would be needed for the Compact to take effect and, if they were the only states to join the compact, could determine the outcome of the election even if 39 other states did not participate in the Compact.

**NOTE:** Four states - Hawaii (a small state), Maryland (an average-sized state), and New Jersey and Illinois (large states) - have already signed the compact. California, Vermont and Rhode Island have also passed the legislation which has not been signed by

the states' governors. NPV has also passed the Maine Senate.

### QUESTIONING THE APPROACH

Clearly, some opponents simply think it inappropriate or unfair to have an approach like the NPV Compact that by avoiding the amendment process, is a 'work-around' to the Constitution.

**Other Issues.** "Mechanical issues" are also a concern for those opposed to NPV, including enforcement, timing, close elections, winning levels, plurality, recounts, election fraud and vote suppression.

### LEAGUE ISSUES

The NPV Compact is not uniform in that it can be enacted by some states and not others. Uniform national voting standards is *already* the League's position. While the current Electoral College system is also not uniform (as with Maine and Nebraska), neither is the NPV Compact.

### Concluding Arguments Against the NPV Compact

The LWVUS supports direct election of the president, rejecting arguments for federalism over those for individual voters' rights in this matter. This is why the LWVUS supports abolishing the Electoral College. However, any question of abolishing the Electoral College must, by necessity, consider the replacement. NPV Compact is an imperfect system replacing a system that is also not perfect—the Electoral College. The League must consider whether changes in the election of the president should be accomplished through normal constitutional amendment procedures or the 'work around' proposed in the NPV Compact.



## Focus on LWVUS & LWVC

### LWVUS to Suspend National Voter

Mary Wilson, LWVUS President, announced cost-cutting measures in a recent email to the membership:

“The League, like the rest of our nation, is faced with difficult economic times and at our [Board] meeting we addressed the impact of our financial situation on the work of the League. ...

[One] hard decision we made was to suspend publication of *The National Voter* magazine (paper and digital) until the League's finances are healthier. Publication costs for *The Voter* are prohibitive in a time of budget cutbacks. The Board, the LWVUS staff and I are all committed to making lemonade out of this lemon by finding new ways to deliver information to you, our members and supporters. We will keep you informed as we move forward.”

Leagues have been asked to forward the electronic Weekly Updates sent out by LWVUS. We will do so—but this will not help to keep our members without email informed. The League, both nationally and locally, will need to come to grips with how to get information to all our members, regardless of their technological status.

### Local Voter Decisions

At its March Board meeting, LWVUS also decided to cut back on *Voter* publication next year. The Board is planning to publish our local *Voter* quarterly next year instead of the 8-10 times/year that has been the standard. To compensate for a less frequent newsletter, the Board plans to increase its electronic communication about programs and activities. This, like the national League decision, will impact those without Internet access, about 15% of our membership, mostly nationally recruited members. If you have feedback on this plan, contact any Board member (listed on p.2).

### LWVUS Legislative Priorities

The LWVUS Board announces **Global Climate Change and Health Care** to be the top legislative priorities for the upcoming year. Top priority issues are ones on which major congressional action is expected and on which the LWVUS will seek to be an active player.

Tier two priorities are *Election Reform* and *DC Voting*

*Rights*. Tier two issues will be acted upon if significant success is possible, though top priorities will take precedence.

Tier three issues could be subject for LWVUS action only if good opportunities present themselves, and there is no pressing action on top priority and tier two issues. Tier three issues we are watching are: *Campaign Finance Reform*; *CEDAW (the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women)*; *Civil Liberties*; *Ethics*; and *Redistricting*.

The LWVUS prioritizes legislative issues for advocacy in order to focus limited resources on those issues where it is considered the League can have a meaningful impact and there is member interest and opportunity for progress.

### DC Voting Rights Legislation Stalled in the House

Movement through Congress of the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009 has been stalled. Even though the bill passed the Senate, debate in the House has been postponed. Opponents of DC voting rights are attempting to derail the bill using an amendment that would repeal DC's gun laws. Now, more than ever, it is important to urge your Representative to support DC voting rights and oppose all amendments!



### LWVC's Open Redistricting Campaign Begins

As preparations begin for implementing Proposition 11, the Voters FIRST redistricting reform act, the League of Women Voters has been front and center. The State Auditor's Office has been holding public meetings around the state, seeking input on how to create an open selection process that will result in the formation of a diverse, qualified commission. The League has been a vital presence at every hearing. Local Leagues have turned out in force to give direction to the State Auditor and monitor the process.

### Statewide Special Election Called for May 19

In February, the Legislature and Governor finally reached agreement on a state budget. The budget agreement includes six funding changes and finance issues that require voter approval either because they amend the Constitution or because the original authorization was by a ballot initiative that prohibits change without voter approval. On May 19, 2009 California voters will be asked to make decisions on some important changes to the budgetary process in a special statewide election.

The LWVC is already mobilizing to provide detailed information for the Special Election. The *In Depth* material on the ballot measures will be posted on the LWVC Web sites in early April.

Visit the LWVC Web site ([ca.lwv.org](http://ca.lwv.org)) to find out more on the latest news about the budget and what the LWVC will be saying about the May 19 ballot measures.





# LEAGUE NEWS

**League members** celebrate at the Susan B. Anthony Women of Achievement Dinner, 2/15/09 Brookside Country Club



**Daphne Shaw**, Susan B. Anthony honoree with **Dee Matteucci**  
Daphne was recognized for her contribution to health care, particularly for her advocacy for mental health services.



**Vickie with Colleen Foster**



Celebrating with **Daphne**



SBA Woman of Achievement in Community Services  
**Vickie Markarian**



**Daphne** accepting her Susan B. Anthony award



**Diane Park, Cate White and Genie Van Schoten** celebrate with **Daphne and Vickie**



**Jane Wagner-Tyack and Esther Vasquez** seriously celebrating at the Susan B. Anthony event

## Philomathean Club Donates in Honor of Ursula Meyer

The League received a \$50 donation from the Philomathean Club in honor of Ursula Meyer who spoke to the Club about her experiences in the Holocaust. Ursula asked that any donation the Club wished to make be given to the League.

**Thank you** to Ursula and the members of the Philomathean Club.

## Asparagus Festival April 24, 25, 26, 2009



### It's Asparagus Festival Time!

We are once again going to participate in the Asparagus Festival. This is our chief fundraiser, bringing in around \$1000 for 3 days work. And—you get into the Festival FREE!

We will work the ID booth, checking driver's licenses and giving out wrist bands to those old enough to purchase beer at the event. It's not an arduous task—and you get to see lots of the folks who come to the Festival.

There are two shifts per day. **Please contact Bea Lingenfelter to volunteer: 239-3881 or beaal@comcast.net.**

It's not often that raising money is this easy or as much fun.





League of Women Voters  
of San Joaquin County  
P.O. Box 4548  
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[www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org)

## CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

**Saturday, March 7, 2009, 9:30 a.m.—Running for Office: True Tales from the Campaign Trail**

Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Stockton Mayor Ann Johnston, Assemblymember Alyson Huber, Lincoln Unified School Board Trustee Van Ha To-Cowell, Delta Trustee Mary Ann Cox-Martin and Legislative Aide and former candidate for County Board of Supervisors Anne Baird will share their campaign experiences.

**Saturday, April 18, 2009, 9:30-noon—Impact of the State Budget on Local Services**

Hospice of San Joaquin, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton. Panelists will speak on health care, education and other local services that are impacted by the crisis in the California State Budget.

**Earth Day: Sunday, April 19, 2009—Volunteers welcome! **Contact Peaches Ehrich****

**Asparagus Festival, April 24-25, 2009—Volunteers welcome! **Contact Bea Lingenfelter****

**LWVC Convention: May 15-17, 2009: *Catch the Wave to the Future.* Long Beach.**

**Annual Meeting, Thursday, June 18th, 6:00 p.m.** Bud's Seafood Restaurant, 314 Lincoln Center, Stockton

**Board Meetings**

All League members are welcome to attend Board meetings. Board meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Hospice, 3888 Pacific Avenue, Stockton . Meetings start at 5:30 p.m.

*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.*