



# The Voter

## Voter Services Expands League Reach Online

As we prepare this issue of *The Voter* for publication, LWVSJC is heavily involved in a very busy election season.

With eleven initiatives on the November 2012 ballot, many community groups have requested Pros & Cons presentations. In addition to doing these in person for over 500 people, we are for the first time making a Pros & Cons presentation available online by link from our website, in a video produced by LWV Cupertino-Sunnyvale.

In addition, LWVSJC has organized candidate forums for a variety of races. With Cal State University Stanislaus, the League co-sponsored a forum for the 5<sup>th</sup> State Senate District (Berryhill/Galgiani). With University of the Pacific, the League co-sponsored forums for the 9<sup>th</sup> Congressional District (McNerney/Gill), the 13<sup>th</sup> Assembly District (Eggman/Jafri), and several Stockton City Council races, including the race for mayor. Videotaped by Stanislaus State, the City of Stockton, and Recordnet.com, these forums have been posted online and can be viewed on our YouTube channel, <http://www.youtube.com/LWVSJC>.

Many League members have participated in bringing these voter service events to residents of San Joaquin County. Bill Loyko and Susan Mora Loyko have been especially instrumental in arranging for videotaping and developing a YouTube channel to increase our outreach to those who are unable to attend live forums.

Find links to videos of candidate forums and Pros & Cons under "Hot Topics" on our website, <http://www.sjc.ca.lwvnet.org/>

See page 3 for information about the new Smart Voter design from LWV California.



*Congressman Jerry McNerney and challenger Ricky Gill face off in an October 15 forum co-sponsored by LWVSJC and University of the Pacific. LWVSJC President Kathy Casenave moderated, and member Daphne Shaw joined UOP's Dr. Robert Benedetti and Tim Daly of KXTV Channel 10 on the panel posing questions to the candidates.*



## Sylvia Kothe Memorial Scholarship Fund Established

The LWVSJC Board of Directors has established a scholarship trust fund in memory of Sylvia Kothe with a scholarship to be administered by the Financial Aid Office at San Joaquin Delta College. Each year, \$200 will be awarded to a Delta College student for use toward the continuation of his or her academic goal.

The student must be a resident of San Joaquin County and must have completed units required to transfer to a four-year institution with a minimum 3.0 GPA. A League scholarship committee will review applications.

This scholarship trust fund has been made possible by the generous support of the following individuals and organizations that made donations in memory of Sylvia:

*Lauren and Denny Ah Tye  
Beverly Blum  
Colleen Foster & Donna Brown  
Gladys Ikeda  
Dee & Al Matteucci  
Concerned Citizens Coalition of Stockton*

*Diane Park  
Barbara Schwartz  
JoAnn Talbot  
Syd and Mary Lois Thompson  
Claire Ursino*



## Kick-off Meeting Looks at Farm Policy

Kari Hamerschlag of the Environmental Working Group and local Fresh Edibles farmer Bob Whitaker spoke about federal farm policy at this year’s kick-off meeting at Delicato Winery.

Currently, the federal Farm Bill heavily favors commodity crops such as cotton, corn, and soybeans, providing them with subsidies and crop insurance and putting farmers who grow fruit and vegetables at a comparative disadvantage. (An interesting aspect of commodity crops is that many use genetically modified organisms, or GMOs – the subject of Proposition 37 on the November ballot, which seeks labeling of GMO products.)

Despite the importance of California agriculture to the state and the nation, only two California representatives serve on the 45-member House Committee on Agriculture, which oversees the Farm Bill. Hamerschlag recommended that regardless of who wins the local congressional seat, he should be encouraged to join this committee.

LWVSJC  
Board of Directors  
for 2012-2013

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## Dramatic New “Next Generation” Design for Smart Voter Debuts



A revolutionary experience is waiting for you at Smart Voter’s brand new Next Generation website! You can go to the special web address of [m.smartvoter.org](http://m.smartvoter.org) right now to check it out.

This cutting-edge update of the League’s award-winning service sports a new streamlined look and an array of feature stories that changes every day. The many enhanced features are especially helpful for the quick information needs and small touch screens of smartphone and tablet owners -- but promise to be fun and interesting for desktop and laptop computer users as well. Get together with your friends and compare the appearance of the Next Generation site – its exact layout will depend on the size of the screen and type of device each of you is using.

Announced at last year’s state League Convention in Ventura and years in planning, the Next Generation site addresses dramatic changes in the way that the public now accesses and uses information on the Internet. According to national market analyses and surveys, a majority of the computer devices now being purchased are smartphones and tablets rather than desktop or laptop computers, and a rapidly-increasing proportion of voters are relying primarily on such mobile devices to get information on politics and elections.



For this November’s election, Smart Voter will be available to California voters in both its traditional format and the new Next Generation design. For future elections the state League will expand the capabilities, features and innovative content of the versatile Next Generation site. If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding it, please email [ca-director@smartvoter.org](mailto:ca-director@smartvoter.org). And click the “More” button on the new site to sign up for the Smart Voter newsletter, like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/smartvoter) or follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/smartvoter) and receive our latest updates.

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## LWVSJC to begin Initiative and Referendum Study

At the May 2011 LWVC Convention, delegates adopted a study to update the state League’s position on the Initiative and Referendum process, last updated in 1999. LWVC supports citizens’ right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process but will be seeking consensus on possible reforms, including

- Leveling the imbalance of money interests
- Increasing transparency
- Engaging citizens
- Restructuring the process
- Making better use of technology

The LWVSJC study meeting will be held Saturday morning, November 17, at the Central United Methodist Church, 3700 Pacific Avenue in Stockton. Refreshments will be available beginning at 9 a.m.



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## 2012-2013 Calendar

November 17	Begin Initiative and Referendum Study
December 12	Holiday Party at the Matteucci home
January 26	Local Program Planning Meeting
February 15	Susan B. Anthony Dinner
February 23	Funding Alternatives to Redevelopment
March 21	Lunch & Learn on Stormwater: Regional and Countywide Issues
April 21	Earth Day
April 26, 27, and 28	Asparagus Festival
May 11	Local Impacts of Immigration
May 17-19	LWVC Convention, San Jose
June 6	Annual Meeting

The board of directors meets on the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at Marie Callender's on March Lane in Stockton. LWVSJC members are welcome.

*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.*