

League of Women Voters of
San Joaquin County

THE VOTER



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Annual Meeting held June 17

Cate White won the 2010 Helen Pearson Award at this year's Annual Meeting on June 17. She was honored for her tireless and energetic work at both the local and state levels. Cate was 1st Vice President this past year and will be continuing to work with the board as Advocacy Chair.

Twenty-eight members met for socializing and dinner at Alder Market in Stockton, then approved the 2010-11 budget, program, and board nominees.

This year's local league program focuses on water issues, health care, and local budget matters. A committee will be fleshing out that program in the next few months and planning forums and meetings.

If you'd like to be involved in program planning or other activities, contact LWVSJC President Jane Wagner-Tyack, 209-365-1986, or email lwvsjc@gmail.com. You can commit as much or as little time as you like.

Quick Quiz on the November Water Bond

1. True or False: The Water Bond scheduled for the November Ballot is the largest water bond in California history.
2. True or False: The Water Bond will pay for building a peripheral canal.
3. True or False: Environmental and agricultural interests are on opposite sides of current water controversies.

ANSWERS

1. True. At \$11.14 billion, it is over twice as large as Proposition 84, the \$5.4 billion bond approved by California voters in 2006.
2. False. It will allocate about \$1.5 billion to planning for a peripheral canal (referred to as "conveyance" these days). The conveyance is supposed to be paid for by the beneficiaries. The bond does allocate \$3 billion for dams, although again, that won't pay the whole cost of building them.
3. False: The important factors in the water discussion are geography and money. There are agricultural and environmental interests on each side of

the water bond debate.

The LWVC Board of Directors has taken a position opposing the water bond. For more information, contact the Voter editor at lwvsjc@gmail.com.

Members monitor Board of Sups and regional transportation

Observing the recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors, LWVSJC member Rosie Bachand reports that she didn't hear "close the county hospital." She did hear "we will closely monitor overruns and take a course of action immediately to compensate." Rosie reports that the BOS was apparently considering having the Clinics become Federally Qualified Health Centers (like Channel Medical Group and others in Tracy and Lodi).

Rosie will be representing the League's positions on Healthcare to the Board of Supervisors.

New LWVSJC member Raul Sanchez commented at length on the Draft San Joaquin 2011 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Some of his observations:

- The planned development at the Port of Stockton and the freight travel demand at the Port justify discussion in the 2011 RTP, and a study area could be defined.
- The designation of Tier II funding means it is reasonable not to expect funding for the proposed freeway from the I-5/State Highway 4 Crosstown Freeway to Charter Way/State Highway 4 has been designated for Tier II funding. This means that we can't expect funding for this project during the period of the 2011 RTP – or for the next 25 years. This means that a less than desirable geometric design of the freeway at the western end at Navy Drive will exist for at least about 20 years.
- The 2011 RTP does not place an emphasis on ridesharing, even though 2009 performance measures for the Commute Connection ridesharing program show it to be very effective in reducing vehicle miles traveled, emissions, and commute costs.
- The region is facing hard choices on providing lifeline services for the transit-dependent and transit assisted population at a time when "choice riders" using the commuter bus service require fewer subsidies.
- Four of the top six funding sources are local or regional sources: Measure K Renewal (sales tax); Developer Fees/Local General Fund; Local Transportation Fund; and Regional Transportation Impact Fee. All local or regional revenue sources account for 55% of the revenues over the 25 years of the 2011 plan period.

Notes on the National League Convention

At the LWVUS Convention in Atlanta June 11-15, LWVC received a Strengthening Democracy Through Reform Award for its ongoing efforts in

areas such as redistricting.

Among motions approved for the National Program for the 2010-2012 Biennium was a study of the Federal Role in Public Education.

Other actions included

- amending and updating the Arms Control positions
- adding language on Marriage Equality to the Equality of Opportunity position.
- expressing support of the national Popular Vote Compact as one acceptable way to achieve the goal of the direct popular vote election for president.
- expressing support for lifting travel restrictions for Americans going to Cuba.
- adopting a resolution in support of safe drilling and mining for energy resources.
- calling on the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for bills that legislate for improved Medicare for all.