

Valley Voter



**League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley**

August 2006

WATER TASTING AND LUNCH

That's right – water tasting, not wine tasting; and we will have a lot of information to digest as we begin to study to update our local water position

Save Saturday, **September 23**, 11:30-1:30

Does water from different parts of the valley taste, smell, look the same? Should it?

Speaker: Matt Katen, project leader of Zone 7's groundwater protection program

What is groundwater? Why is it important to protect it? What endangers it?

A registration form and menu are on page 8.

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Calendar

September 11 (Monday) Board Meeting, Sun Room at Rosewood Gardens, 35 Fenton, Livermore. 7 PM. **All members are invited to attend.**

September 16 (Saturday) Know Your Bay Day at Marines Memorial Club, San Francisco

September 23 (Saturday) Water Tasting and Lunch at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton 11:30–1:30

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Perhaps it's just that prolonged hot spell in July, but I find myself looking forward to the fall. League activities kick-off with lunch at Girasole's Restaurant on Saturday, September 23. Matt Kalen from Zone 7 will introduce our local Water Study. I look forward to seeing you there.

In a related event, Know Your Bay Area Day, on Saturday, September 16, will feature speakers on the subject, "Challenges to our Interdependent Water Systems." Look for the article elsewhere in The Voter. Let's plan to take BART and go to San Francisco together. Call me at 846-9739 or e-mail me at barbehem@comcast.net if you are interested in going.

This fall is going to be a busy time for our League. Your help is needed with several local candidates' forums and Pro and Con presentations for the thirteen state propositions that will be on the ballot. This is a great opportunity for you to become better informed about the propositions and to go out and share your knowledge with interested groups. Just contact Vivian

Thorson, our Voter Service Officer (846-5001) and tell her you'd like to help.

Also, one of our most important jobs as a League is voter registration. Kudos to the Lovells who week after week go to the Livermore Farmers' Market and register voters. Thanks also to our members who so faithfully keep the Voter Registration Form boxes located throughout the Valley filled.

Delegates at the LWVUS Convention 2006 elected Mary G. Wilson the LWVUS President. They also adopted a three-year study of Immigration Policies – two years of study and one year of consensus. Although delegates voted to increase national dues \$2.50, it is not anticipated that the dues collected by our League will increase at this time.

At the state level, the League continues its work for Clean Money Elections, Health Care for All, and Redistricting.

We're glad to have you as one of our members.

Barbara



REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

Our annual road show of training for League members, a series of regional workshops, started in San Luis Obispo on Saturday, **August 12**.

On **September 9**, two regional workshops will take place in Palo Alto and Riverside. Registration for these workshops is due by September 6.

On Saturday, **September 30**, LWV Redding plays host to a regional workshop, with registration due by **September 27**. The road show ends on Saturday, **October 28** in Beverly Hills. Register by October 23 for this workshop.

To download a registration flyer for September and October workshops, visit http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/forms/regional_training_regform_2006.pdf

Online registration for these workshops will be available shortly.

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY
NON-PARTISAN POLICY 2006**

The Board reminds members of the importance of maintaining a non-partisan attitude at League meetings. Our membership draws from all political parties and represents differing opinions about state and local initiatives. As members, we are asked to always speak and act in a non-partisan manner at LWV meetings and events

Also, each year local Leagues are asked to check their existing non-partisan policy to see whether any changes are appropriate. Members will be informed each year about the Non-Partisan Policy.

The League recognizes the role of political parties in our form of government and believes that participation in the activities of political parties is an essential ingredient of citizen responsibility. While the League urges its members to be politically active, certain constraints are necessary for some Board members in order to maintain the non-partisanship of the organization.

The Board of Directors of the League of Women Voters Livermore-Amador Valley has established the following guidelines.

A Board member:

Will need to resign prior to running for partisan elective office;

Must not actively work against a position held by the League;

Serving as the President, Membership Vice President, Voter Service Director, or Local Action Director may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate;

Should be aware that our non-partisan image is of great importance to our effectiveness and should not engage in any activity which would jeopardize our reputation.

Many questions should be determined on a case-by-case basis. In order to do so successfully, all Board members must understand restrictions and questionable areas and get the Board's opinion when in doubt.

When a Board member's action or intended action raises a concern on the part of the Board, the Board should feel free to discuss this matter to reach consensus.

The President and (his or her) designated representative (or a representative designated by the Board) presents official League positions to public bodies.

July 2006

**AN INVITATION TO ALL MEMBERS OF
LWV LIVERMORE-AMADOR VALLEY**

All members are invited to attend the Board Meeting on Monday, September 11, 2006, at 7:00 PM at Rosewood Gardens, 35 Fenton St near Valley Care Hospital in Livermore. This is your chance to see your new Board in action and learn about plans for the coming year. Refreshments are served, courtesy of Rosewood Gardens. Please take the elevator to the 2nd floor and walk to the south end of the hall to the SUN ROOM.

Parking is available both on the grounds as well as on the street. For any questions phone Chuck Hazen at 925 447-7823.

LOCAL WATER STUDY UPDATE

The committee to study our local Water Position in order to update it has met twice. Members of the committee, thus far, are Dolores Bengsten, Elteen Stone, Jim Kohnen, Virginia McFann, Barbara Hempill, Joan Green, Chuck Hartwig, Julice Winter, Hildy Pehrson, John Stein, Margaret Tracy, Preston Hill. Rich Halket is also helping.

We are reviewing Zone 7's various plans and policies to see where our position needs revision.

Zone 7 people have been very helpful. The Zone's web site (www.zone7water.com) is also very good. Some information that came from the site, with permission, is on the next page.

We have arranged for Matt Katen, leader of Zone 7's groundwater protection program, to be our speaker at our September "kick-off" lunch. At the lunch, we will have a water-tasting exercise. We will have a tour of the Patterson Pass Treatment Plant in mid-November (after the election). Unit meetings will be in Feb. or March.

If you are interested in participating on the committee, please let me know. A couple of areas that need some additional research to update our position are the budget, focusing on the water rates, connection fees; the retailers' point of view; flood control; conservation (looking forward to drought, global-warming; energy efficiencies within system – we learned in our state energy study that our state water distribution system is one of the biggest users of energy).

Mary Ann Hannon 443-5588



CHALLENGES TO OUR INTERDEPENDENT WATER SYSTEMS

Learn about the politics affecting the Bay Area water supply and the security of the water systems at the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Know Your Bay Area Day, Saturday, September 16. You will also get a special look at the Hetch Hetchy upgrades now under way.

Sessions include:

- Challenges of our regional water supply systems
- The San Francisco Water System, the WSIP, and emergency water supply plans
- Political concerns of the regional water agencies, emergency water supply plans, and the demographics of water users
- The economic importance of water to the Bay Area
- The Bay Area Water Supply Association: Keeping the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on track
- Emergency preparedness for the water supply: What if?

Know Your Bay Area Day will be held at the Marines' Memorial Club, 609 Sutter Street, San Francisco. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a light breakfast.

The program will start at 9:30 a.m. and will adjourn at 1:00 p.m. The cost is \$17.50 per person. Reservations are essential.

Come and enjoy a day in San Francisco and learn about one of the Bay Area's most important resources. To reserve a space, e-mail treasurer@lwvba.lwvnet.org or mail your check payable to LWVBA to Tam Hege, 80 Florada Avenue, Piedmont, CA 94610.

Zone 7 FAQs

(Reprinted, with permission, from Zone 7's website, www.zone7water.com.)

Q: What is Zone 7?

Zone 7 Water Agency is the water wholesaler for the Tri Valley. Zone 7 manages the water supply, treats your drinking water, and sells water to local retailers, who in turn provide it to you. Zone 7 also supplies untreated water for local industry and agriculture.

Q. Who does Zone 7 supply water to?

Zone 7 supplies water to four Valley water retailers: Dublin San Ramon Services District, the City of Pleasanton, the City of Livermore, and California Water Service Company. Each of these water retailers delivers water to homes in their specific service areas.

Q: Where does Zone 7 get its water?

Zone 7 receives its water from three main sources:

- State Water Project (SWP). Zone 7 purchases the bulk of its surface water (about 75% - 80%) from the SWP. Most of SWP water comes from Sierra Nevada snowmelt, which is then routed throughout California.
- Local surface water. About 20% - 25% of Zone 7's water comes from Lake Del Valle, a local reservoir that is used to collect and store rain runoff from the local watershed.
- Local Groundwater. Zone 7 actively manages the local groundwater basin by storing surplus water in the basin during the winter and pumping it back out during the summer to supplement other water supplies.

For more information on Zone 7's water sources, see [**What is Zone 7: We Supply Your Water.**](#)

How does Zone 7 cover its costs?

Revenue at Zone 7 is generated from three sources:

- Water sales
- Connection fees
- Property taxes

Each of these sources can be affected by the economic situation in the marketplace. Customer demand can increase or decrease sales. Connection fees are impacted by the rate of development. Assessed home sales affect property taxes.

For more information on Zone 7's budget, see [**Budget 101.**](#)

Q: Why don't I receive a bill from Zone 7?

Zone 7's costs are wrapped into the bill you receive from your water retailer. These costs include purchasing water, water delivery to your local retailer, ongoing operation and maintenance, and water treatment. Zone 7 uses its operations and maintenance program and renewal and replacement fund to actively manage its assets.

For more information on Zone 7's water rates, see [**Where Your Water Rate Dollar Goes.**](#)

Page updated: 12/14/05



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS

November 7, 2006 General Election

Thirteen State propositions have qualified for the November ballot at this time, and The League of Women Voters California makes the following recommendations. It is possible that propositions dealing with Redistricting and Term Limits may also qualify in time to be on the ballot.

YES on Proposition 1B

Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006.

Part of the bond package developed to help rebuild CA's infrastructure. This bond act would raise \$19 billion for transportation improvements.

YES on Proposition 1C

Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.

A bond measure to finance housing-related programs, brownfield cleanup, and parks related to infill development. The League has long been concerned about providing adequate housing.

YES on Proposition 1D

Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006.

This bond measure would fund new school construction, modernization, relief of overcrowding, and other school infrastructure needs. The League supports improving CA's educational infrastructure.

YES on Proposition 1E

Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.

This bond measure will provide funds for flood protection, levee protection in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, and storm water management. The League supports protecting our existing water supply infrastructure.

YES on Proposition 84

Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements.

Bonds. This initiative continues the League's past support of efforts to insure that CA has adequate water supplies. It would fund projects for safe drinking water, flood control, protection of rivers, lakes, streams, forest and wildlife conservation, and coastal protection and state parks.

NO on Proposition 85

Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, and all parents want what is best for their children. However, government can't impose good family communication. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put teenagers in danger.

YES on Proposition 86

Tax on Cigarettes.

This constitutional amendment imposes an additional 13-cent tax on each cigarette distributed and increases taxes on other tobacco products. The estimated \$2.1 billion in annual revenue will fund children's health coverage, emergency services and nursing education for qualified hospitals, and tobacco-use prevention programs, research and treatment of various tobacco-related illnesses. The League believes that the overwhelming social benefits of this measure greatly outweigh the potential downside of this earmarked tax.

NO on Proposition 88

Education Funding. Real Property Parcel Tax.

This measure would impose a \$50 tax on each real property parcel to create the Classroom Learning and Accountability Fund in the state treasury. While the League supports equitable access to quality education, this measure violates the League's State and Local Finances positions and is not real reform. It proposes to earmark funds via constitutional amendment without providing sufficient funding to even bring education spending up to the national average. It also involves the state for the first time in taxing real property.



YES on Proposition 89

Political Campaigns. Public Financing. Corporate Tax Increase. Contribution and Expenditure Limits.

This Measure, the California Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006, would allow candidates running for office to receive public campaign funding by meeting certain eligibility requirements. Funding would be provided for by an increase of 0.2 % in the corporate income tax rate. This measure also imposes new limits on campaign contributions, and places new restrictions on contributions by corporations and lobbyists. The League vigorously supports practices that will enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and that place realistic limits on campaign contributions and expenditures.

NO on Proposition 90

Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property.

This measure redefines the eminent domain process in ways that will make it difficult for government to protect the environment. It will likely increase costs to taxpayers for implementation of environmental protection laws or new consumer protection laws. It is, in part, vaguely worded and will likely result in extensive litigation.

The League has no position on:

Proposition 83 (Sex Offenders. Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring)

The League will be neutral on:

Proposition 1A (Transportation Funding Protection) and

Proposition 87 (Alternative Energy. Research, Production, Incentives. Tax on California Oil Producers.)



Who's Who in the League

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August Board Briefs

- * National Dues increase of \$2.50 (no increase for local league members because of \$5 dues increase last year)
- * Local Water Study. Kick-Off luncheon on September 23 with speaker, Mr. Matt Katen, Groundwater Specialist with Zone 7.
- * PROS and CONS ordered for upcoming election in November.
- * Look for (teasing) Advertising Campaign in the Independent and Pleasanton Weekly.
- * LWV Banner to be displayed on 4th Street in Livermore in September.
- * Next Board meeting, 7 PM, Monday, September 11, at Rosewood Gardens. All members urged to attend to see your Board in Action.

Audrey Lovell

**LUNCHEON
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

11:30	Social Time	Girasole
12:00	Lunch	3180 Santa Rita Rd.
12:30	Speaker	Pleasanton

MENU CHOICES

- | | |
|---|--|
| <u>Pacific Rim</u> | Hoison marinated chicken breast, Napa cabbage, roasted cashews, bell peppers, carrots, rice noodles, ginger soy vinaigrette |
| <u>Super Caesar</u> | Romaine lettuce, sun-dried tomatoes, hearts of palm, garlic croutons, grilled chicken breast |
| <u>Super Caesar Vegetarian</u> | Same as above except no chicken |
| <u>Chicken Gorgi</u> | Grilled breast of chicken, penne, Gorgonzola cream sauce, honey roasted walnuts, grapes |
| <u>Gorgi Vegetarian</u> | Same as above except no chicken |
| <u>Grilled Rosemary Chicken Sandwich</u> | Kaiser roll, lemon and tarragon aioli, French fries |

Included in the entrée price is unlimited coffee, iced tea or soda and 8.75% sales tax and 18% gratuity

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Name/Names_____

Pacific Rim	\$23.00	-----
Super Caesar	23.00	-----
Super Caesar Vegetarian	19.00	-----
Chicken Gorgi	23.00	-----
Gorgi Vegetarian	17.00	-----
Rsmry. Chicken Sandwich	16.00	-----
TOTAL		-----

Please make check payable to LAVLWV

**Mail to: Chuck Hazen
720 Adams Avenue, Livermore, CA 94550
Phone: 925-447-7823**



League of Women Voters
Livermore-Amador Valley
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(925) 443-VOTE

<http://www.geocities.com/lwvlav/newsletterindex.html>

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.

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

The League is open to all U.S. citizens, men and women, age 18 or older. Annual dues are \$55 for one person, \$80 for two people in one household. By becoming a member of the Livermore-Amador Valley League, one also becomes a member of the Bay Area, California, and National Leagues.

Please mail this form with your check, payable to the League of Women Voters of Livermore-Amador Valley, to LWV-LAV, P.O. Box 702, Livermore, CA 94551-0702

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____