



# Valley Voter

League of Women Voters  
Livermore-Amador Valley

October 2005

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## VOTE with the League on the November Ballot

- Prop. 73. (Oppose)** Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification.
- Prop. 74. (Oppose)** Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.
- Prop. 75. (Oppose)** Public Employee Union Dues. Required Employee Consent for Political Contributions.
- Prop. 76. (Oppose)** School Funding, State Spending.
- Prop. 77. (Oppose)** Reapportionment/Redistricting.
- Prop. 78. (Oppose)** Prescription Drugs. Discounts.
- Prop. 79. (Support)** Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.
- Prop. 80. (Neutral)** Electric Service Providers. Regulation.

For more information see [ca.lwvc.org](http://ca.lwvc.org) ("Proposition Recommendations")

## WHO'S WHO IN THE LEAGUE

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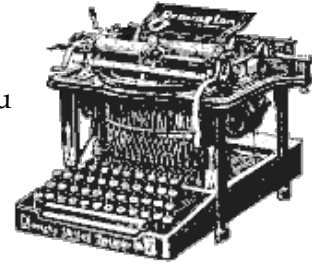
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## President's Message



I hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of hearing Dr. Dan Kammen on October 22 discuss his findings and conclusions regarding the use and production of energy in the United States, "Energy and the Environment." This will be a great introduction to the League's study of Energy which will be directed by Julice Winter. I am very grateful to Julice, who recently transferred her membership from Fremont, for taking on this responsibility. You will find the League's study to be interesting, informative, and challenging. Be sure to attend the unit meetings Julice is scheduling and give us your input. My husband and I recently returned from Europe where the cost of gasoline, when converted from liters to gallons, is over \$5.00 a gallon. Small wonder I didn't see any SUVs.

Vivian Thorson, who is responsible for Voter Service, has been busy registering voters, as have the Lovells. She has also arranged a number of forums, not only for the candidates for Livermore Mayor and City Council, but also to present Pros and Cons for the propositions on the state ballot. Thanks to the work done by Mary Ann Hannon, our League has also been able to present our own Pros and Cons for the Livermore Trails Development and distribute copies to interested residents. Our League has also distributed hundreds of copies of Easy Voter and Pros and Cons in all three communities.

Having informed yourself, be sure to vote on Tuesday, November 8, 2005.

*Barbara Hempill*

## October Board Briefs

At its October 10 meeting the Board

- Instructed Larry Moyer to take \$1100 from our checking account and put it to our CD. This money is for scholarships.
- Directed Barbara Hempill to write an Op-Ed piece outlining the position of the LWVC on the State propositions.
- Turned down a request for the League to do a forum on Livermore Lab expansion plans, as we felt it was not within our purview to do this.
- Turned down a request to endorse Ch. 30's Pros & Cons presentation, since we have already done our own and would have no control over the show's format.

*Ann Rathjen, Secretary*



## Reminder: Saturday, October 22 Luncheon

Join us for lunch on Saturday, October 22, at Girasole Restaurant in Pleasanton with Dr. Daniel M. Kammen speaking on "Energy and the Environment."

Dr. Kammen sees value in greater emphasis on renewable energy sources, such as solar, wind power, and biomass, not only because it is better for the environment, but also because it would improve our nation's security by lessening reliance on imported oil. He argues that renewables are a better investment than highly touted but uncertain exotic new technologies such as hydrogen fuel.

Chuck Hazen needs menu orders and checks no later than October 18. See the September VOTER online, or call Chuck at 447-7823 for details and reservations.

*Pat Mann, Membership Chair*



## New Member Ann Gabor

Ann has many words of praise for the League of Women Voters. Before she joined our League, she always checked the LWV recommendations before casting a vote because she had confidence in its studies and positions. The League is just part of this busy woman's life: She is active in her church and does the newsletters for CRTA, California Retired Teachers' Association. Ann was widowed when her children were 10 and 12; as a teacher she reared them successfully and now enjoys having daughter and grandchildren in Northern California. In 2000 Ann was given an AAUW Educational Foundation Named Honoree award by the Livermore-Pleasanton-Dublin branch for her AAUW and community work.

*Pat Mann, Membership Chair*

## Prop. 77: Redistricting

The League of Women Voters of California believes that the standards on which a redistricting plan should be based need to assure:

- 1) Substantially equal population,
- 2) Geographic contiguity, and
- 3) Protection of the voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority from dilution.

The League also believes that the redistricting process should include:

- 1) Specific time lines for the steps leading to adoption of the redistricting plan,
- 2) Public hearings on the proposed plan,
- 3) An automatic non-judicial backup procedure in the event of deadlock, and
- 4) A requirement that any redistricting plan drawn by the legislature be adopted by more than a simple majority vote.

Unfortunately, Prop 77 fails to meet these standards. Consequently, the LWVC has taken an **oppose** position to this ballot measure.

*Barbara Hempill*

## Log On to Smart Voter



The League's Smart Voter website is unparalleled in providing complete and unbiased information. To find answers about candidates in local elections, propositions on the ballot, your personal

polling place, and much more, log on to <http://smartvoter.org>

## Energy Study

The California Energy Commission Draft Report featured in the *Times*, Sept 17, states that electricity users will face "severe shortages in the next few years." That statement is only one of a long list of critical failures in the state energy health. SB 1389 requires the CEC to prepare an Energy Report every two years. The final draft is due Nov. 2. The outlook is gloomy.

The LWV State Energy Update Study will deal with electricity and the interrelationship of energy and water. The Study will help us better understand the ramifications of the new CEC report which becomes the state's energy policy. We will also cover the history of deregulation and some of the details of what happens when we turn on the lights.

The Fall Kickoff on Oct 22 will be a good introduction to the Energy Study; Dr. Daniel Kammen will speak on "Energy and the Environment."

League members receiving this VOTER electronically can find the study information on the LWVC web site at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org) (then click on the Energy Study Update). Four issue papers that will give you a good background for the study are also on the web site; look for "Keeping California's Lights On," "Flipping the Switch," "A World of Its Own: Electric Utility Regulation in California," and "Designing an Energy Portfolio." (Those receiving the VOTER by U. S. mail will be sent a separate mailing of these papers.)

Consensus meetings have been scheduled for Jan. 11 and 25, so save the dates. We are looking for more people to be on the committee. We will divide up the material so no one has to be an expert on the whole topic. Please contact Julice Winter at [julicew@sbc.global.net](mailto:julicew@sbc.global.net) to join us or for more information.

*Julice Winter*

## Update from LWV Bay Area: CEQA Reform

Our meeting on CEQA Reform on September 24 was well attended and featured an update on the status of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Many of us remember when CEQA was enacted in 1970 and became an important process for documenting the environmental impacts, reasonable alternatives, and feasible mitigation of significant impacts of both public and private projects. The process required an opportunity for public comment and required that the public agency respond to comments prior to approval of projects. (See [www.opr.ca.gov](http://www.opr.ca.gov) for requirements.)

Over the past 35 years, as a result of the CEQA process, better decisions have been made by public agencies and citizens who were empowered to affect the decision, particularly neighborhood groups who previously were given no opportunity for input on projects or whose comments were simply ignored. Panelists at our meeting generally agreed it was a good law but has its flaws and could stand some improvement. Issues cited were that EIRs miss the larger regional impacts because their focus is project-specific, and an EIR can be challenged in court by NIMBYs (in some cases to gain leverage for union wages) or when a public agency simply "shuts its ears" to the facts. For this reason, EIRs have become very lengthy and technical documents, primarily to avoid suits.

Proposals for improvement of CEQA include a practice of doing a more complete initial study, analysis of the feasibility of alternatives, and the use of Specific Plans and Master EIRs first, followed by a "focused" environmental review to determine if the project complies with the plan. Legislation is pending that would provide some of these reforms. SB 832 (Perata) is being used as a spot bill for reform language in the next session, and SB 1024 would provide the funding for needed planning as part of a statewide infrastructure bond measure for the Nov. 2006 ballot. There should be a clear summary of the environmental impact in plain English, clear definitions of what is a significant

impact, and retention of a participation process regarding projects at the local level, regardless of the abbreviated EIR review process.

As a result of our resolution at the State Convention in May, LWV California has sent a letter to Gov. Schwarzenegger on the issue of CEQA Reform. See [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org).

*Linda Craig, President*  
[President@lwvba-ca.org](mailto:President@lwvba-ca.org)

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## Alameda County Council on the Web

League action at the County level is often invisible to members, so LWV Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville has agreed to host the Alameda County Council's web pages.

We'll be posting our letters to elected officials and other info. Take a look at [www.lwvbae.org/acc.htm](http://www.lwvbae.org/acc.htm) or just go to the [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org) site and click the Alameda County Leagues items.

*Nancy Bickel, Chair, ACC*

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## Calendar

**Tuesday, October 18**, deadline to register for luncheon on Saturday Oct. 22.

**Saturday, October 22**, luncheon with Dr. Daniel Kammen, Girasole Restaurant, Pleasanton. Noon.



**Monday, November 7**, Board Meeting, Barbara Hempill's. 7 pm.

**Wednesday, January 11 and 25**, State Energy Study Units. TBA.

**Friday, January 27, 2006**, Bay Area League Day: State of the Bay Restoration and Access.



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

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## 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.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_