

Valley Voter



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

September 2006

REMINDERS:

Water Tasting and Lunch: Saturday, September 23

Taste (and smell!) water from various parts of the Bay Area. Speaker Matt Katen is from Zone 7's groundwater protection program. Reservations are needed by Thursday, September 21 (Form on page 7)

Candidates Forums: September 25 – October 5

Seven candidates forums are scheduled on five different evenings in three cities. See the complete schedule on page 4.

Banner is Reminder of Approaching Election Day

The Livermore Amador Valley League of Women Voters will have a street banner located on 4th Street in Livermore from September 18th. to October 1. The attractive red, white and blue banner will say "JUST VOTE, League of Women Voters Livermore-Amador Valley, SmartVoter.org". The banner is a continuation of the outreach of the local league to encourage citizens to vote. Hopefully the banner will also remind citizens to use SmartVoter.org to assist them in being informed voters.

Calendar

Sept. 23 (Saturday) Water Tasting and Lunch at Girasole Restaurant, 3180 Santa Rita Rd, Pleasanton 11:30 – 1:30 (Reservation form is on page 7.)

Oct. 25 (Wednesday) Brown bag lunch at the Livermore Library to hear the report of the Alameda County School Superintendent Study.

Nov. 7 (Tuesday) Election Day

Nov. 16 (Thursday) Visit to Zone 7 water facility

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Why We Support Girls State

Our League has designated \$250 in its budget to help sponsor a local high school girl entering her senior year to attend Girls State. Because no high school from the Valley participated in the program last year, they have not been given a reservation, but will be placed on a waiting list for 2007. By early November, we should know whether one of the schools is confirmed.

At the request of the Board, Audrey Lovell collected background material on Girls State. Her report follows.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GIRLS STATE

Back in the depression-ridden days of the early 1930s, the American Legion grew concerned over public statements to the effect that Democracy was "on the skids." How could the US train its young people in self-government as effectively as Fascist Italy and Nazi Germany seemed to be training their youth groups in the promulgation of totalitarian forms of government.

They decided the best way to learn something was by practicing it. In 1935 American Legionnaires began to gather representative high school boys together for a few days each summer in a citizenship training program on the process of city and state government. They called it Boys State. It proved to be so successful that the American Legion Auxiliary began similar opportunities for girls of high school age.

Boys State and Girls State are summer leadership and citizenship programs sponsored by the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary (<http://legion-aux.org/>) for high school students between their junior and senior years. Today, Boys and Girls State programs are held in each of the U.S. states, usually on a college campus within that state. Since 1948, Girls State sessions were held in all 50 states except Hawaii. The program has grown from a few hundred participants to nearly 25,000 Girls State Delegates annually.

The goal of the program is to develop leadership and pride in American citizens and to educate youth delegates about our system of government. Girls who meet certain criteria are invited to apply to become delegates to Girls State. These applicants are then evaluated for their potential leadership qualities by American Legion Auxiliary Unit Girls State chair persons, assisted by high school principals and counselors, and ultimate selection of delegates is made based on those evaluations.

What does a typical Girls State week include? Mock elections are held. Its legislature organizes, elects, and passes bills in a way that is similar to how an actual legislature operates. Some states hold mock trials with the participants volunteering to act as lawyers, criminals, and juries. From the talent pools that they have assembled, other states are able to form bands and choirs.

The program is funded by each state's American Legion Auxiliary, with some additional support coming from other civic nonprofit organizations. Little or no expense is required of the delegate or her family.

Famous alumni of the Boys and Girls State Programs include Bill Clinton, George Patacki, Mike Huckabee, Tom Brokaw, Jane Pauley, Michelle Johnson, Michael Jordan and Neil Armstrong.

The following resources were used in preparing this report:

<http://www.eiu.edu/-girlstate/> and www.usd.edu/girlstate/mainpage.htm

Audrey Lovell

Girls State Continued on next page

Because the Livermore American Legion Auxiliary has disbanded, our League needs to be connected to a nearby American Legion Auxiliary to support Girls State program. Audrey contacted the City of Alameda's American Legion Auxiliary chair person, Leonarda Esigay, who would welcome our League's monetary support to aid local girl students from our local high schools. In 2004, we did support winning student Erin Hobson from Livermore High School who shared her experience in person with our Board.



Welcome new members to the League!

Linda Krasnow and Jane Nebo are new members of our League. We hope they will enjoy their participation in LWV Livermore-Amador Valley. Linda lives in Pleasanton and Jane in Livermore; their address information will appear in the roster to be circulated later this year. In the meantime, if you would like to contact them, please call Pat at (925) 447-3672 for addresses and phone numbers.



President's Message

Thanks to the great people you have serving you on the Board this year, our League has many activities underway. Watch for our ads in The Independent and Pleasanton Weekly and call them to the attention of your friends. Better yet, come with your friends to our upcoming events, like the lunch on September 23 at Girasole where we will be hearing about water service to our Valley and participating in a water tasting.

Also, in September look for our eye-catching banner hung across Fourth Street in Livermore. If you are on the internet, be sure to check out SmartVoter.org for all kinds of voter information. We have also put our bylaws online, as well as all our positions. Just go to <http://lav.ca.lwvnet.org> and click on "About Our League."

We have a great line-up of candidates' forums this fall, and many of you will be helping us. We will be making presentations of the League's Pro and Con information as well as distributing copies of Pros and Cons and Easy Voter throughout the Valley. Be sure you pick up a copy at one of the forums or the local library, senior center, etc.

Several of the Board members will be attending Know Your Bay Area Day in San Francisco to hear more about "Challenges of our Regional Water Systems."

Be sure to mark Wednesday, October 25, on your calendar to learn about the Alameda County School Superintendent Study done by representatives of the seven Alameda County Leagues. We will have a brown bag lunch at the Livermore Library. Later, a unit meeting is scheduled to discuss the questions posed by the study in relation to the County Leagues' Education position.

It seems far away now, but as a follow-up to our September 23 lunch we will be touring a Zone 7 facility on November 16. I'm sure you will want to see the process that brings us our water.

You have a great opportunity to share the League with your friends. We'd like to meet them.

Barbara

CANDIDATES FORUM SCHEDULE - FALL 2006

Sponsored by League of Women Voters Livermore-Amador Valley

DAY	DATE	TIME	OFFICE BEING CONTESTED	FORUM LOCATION
Monday	Sept. 25	7 PM	Pleasanton City Council	PLEASANTON City Council Chambers 200 Old Bernal Avenue
Monday	Sept. 25	8 PM	Pleasanton Mayor	PLEASANTON City Council Chambers 200 Old Bernal Avenue
Wednesday	Sept. 27	7 PM	Livermore Unified School Board	LIVERMORE City Council Chambers 3375 Pacific Avenue
Monday	Oct. 2	7 PM	Dublin San Ramon Services District Board	DSRSD Board Room 7051 Dublin Blvd
Monday	Oct. 2	8 PM	East Bay Regional Parks District Board	DSRSD Board Room 7051 Dublin Blvd
Wednesday	Oct. 4	7 PM	Dublin City Council *	DUBLIN City Council Chambers 100 Civic Plaza
Thursday	Oct. 5	7 PM	Dublin School Board *	DUBLIN School District Board Room 1471 Larksdale Avenue

** These Dublin forums are co-sponsored by the Dublin-San Ramon Women's Club*

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 develop-

ment. 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.

Recommendations Continued on next page

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)

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

League Board Briefs - Monday, September 11, 2006

The Board took some time to remember League member and retired U.S. Air Force Colonel Preston Hill who recently passed away. Preston was memorialized in a recent Valley Times newspaper column by Mark Tarte. He will be missed.

Walt Morgan recounted his first time efforts as editor of this newsletter, including the rewards and challenges of encouraging internet use. It appears that only a few "snail mail" fans remain among our members.

Local newspapers have expressed an interest in covering League activities, particularly our local water study.

The campaign season is upon us. Board members eagerly snapped up jobs as moderators and time keepers for various candidate forums. Registering voters at Stoneridge Mall has proved rewarding. The Mall provides a comfortable inside location, and many people are registering. Volunteering there does not require sunscreen, umbrellas, jackets, or paper weights!

Vote “Yes” with The League on Proposition 89

POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS. PUBLIC FINANCING.

Proposition 89 aims to make politicians accountable to voters rather than to lobbyists and special interests. Its three powerful components are:

1) Strict contribution limits

Prop. 89 ends the fundraising competition with state constitutional limits so the voice of voters is not drowned by big contributors.

- Bans contributions from lobbyists and state contractors.
- Limits contributions from corporations, unions, and individuals to state candidates.
- Limits corporation donations to initiatives to \$10,000.

2) Clean Money public financing of political campaigns

Prop. 89 levels the playing field so new candidates can win on their ideas, not because of the money they raise.

- Candidates who agree to spending limits and to take no private contributions qualify

for public funding.

- \$5.00 contributions from voters required to prove viability.
- Clean candidates receive enough to run competitive campaigns. They can't raise money beyond public funds.

3) Tough disclosure and enforcement for politicians

Prop. 89 stops candidates from hiding behind negative ads and punishes politicians who violate the law.

- Makes wealthy, self-funded candidates disclose the amount of personal funds they will spend.
- Publicly financed candidates must engage in debates
- Imposes mandatory jail time and provides for removal from office of candidates who break the law.

Who's Who in the League

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Thank you to our Donors!

The following members and friends of LWV-LAV donated to the branch and/or LWVEF this membership year:

Mary Beth Acuff

Dolores Bengtson

Ann Gabor

Jim and Mary Ann Hannon

Charles Hazen

Barbara and Hugh Hempill

Jean King

Jim and Pat Kohnen

Carol Locke

Audrey and Fred Lovell

Barbara and David Mertes

Larry Moyer

Bernice and David Oakley

Hildy Pehrson

Ann and Don Rathjen

Jane Staehle

Elteen Stone

Madge Takemori

Vivian and Sheldon Thorson

Ayn Wieskamp

Julice Winter

Editor's Note:

There must be lots of material out there to fill in odd spaces like this, but this beginner has not yet found suitable sources.. What would you put here? Where did you find it?

wvm

**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
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Phone: 925-447-7823**



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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: _____