



Kern Voter

A PUBLICATION OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF KERN COUNTY **October/November 2010**

Two Opportunities to Learn About the November Ballot Propositions

October 16th Pro-Con Forum

In the upcoming November ballot, California voters will have nine different propositions to review and vote. These propositions range from legalizing marijuana to redistricting congressional districts to the elimination of the citizens redistricting commission.

It is important that California voters understand what the propositions are about so they can cast the correct vote per their understanding.

The League of Women Voters of Kern is proud to host events to educate Kern Voters. Our first event will be held on Saturday, October 16, at CSU Bakersfield, in the Business Development Center, room 401C, from 2 – 4 pm. Registration is \$5.00, and parking is \$2.00 in lot J.

Please call the League line for reservations at 661-634-3773.

-Michelle Turner

October 20th League Meeting

Voters will make decisions on nine state propositions on November 2. Residents of Bakersfield will also vote on Measure D which affects pension benefits of public safety workers. Reading the entire explanation of the propositions can be tedious, so plan to attend the October 20 general meeting and listen to members of the League's Speakers Bureau present the pros and cons of each proposition.

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Before each election, our Speakers Bureau analyzes the propositions and distills them so that they are easy to understand. Both pros and cons will be presented. One of the primary purposes of the LWV is education. This is the time to learn both sides of the issues.

The October 20 meeting will take place at the Petroleum Club at 5:45. Cost of dinner is \$22 payable at the door and reservations are required. Please call the League Line, 634-3773, or e-mail Patti Jepsen, patti.jepsen.ak8b@statefarm.com by noon October 18. Members and guests are always welcome to attend just the program which begins at approximately 6:30 pm.

-Lynne Rosenstein

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President's Message

It is time to renew your membership! Thank you for supporting us for *90 years*—we appreciate that. We would like your continued support as we head into the next decade

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fighting for improved government and impacting public policy through education and advocacy. Here is why you should remain a member...

- *Continuing a nationwide effort to encourage 27,000 high school students---especially minorities, to register to vote.*
- *Advocating for fair and clean legislation to reduce the impact of the Citizens United vs FEC (2010) decision protecting corporate and union spending on elections.*
- *Educating the public on the California State Budget impact and advocating for improvements fiscal initiative process.*
- *Pushing for federal action to reduce global warming pollutants on a national and global scale. Legislation hit the senate floor early this summer.*
- *Fighting Prop 27 which could possibly overturn the Redistricting Reform (prop 11) passed by voters in 2008 election.*
- *Implementing the School Finance Exploration Project report to create the groundwork to improve our education system.*

California statewide election elections are heating up— Voters will be closely watching key California executive offices and state and federal legislative races. How does a voter filter through the politicking and quarrels during the candidate races? Here are some tips:

- Follow the campaign to learn about the candidates and their backgrounds;
- Find out what the important campaign issues are;
- Decide what issues are most important to you;
- Open your mind to new opinions/impressions of the candidates regardless of party affiliation.
- Watch a debate in a group and have a discussion afterwards to clarify your thoughts about what was said in the debate and how the candidates performed.
- Visit www.smartvoter.org for your personal ballot and candidate information in your district.
- Follow the money!! www.campaignmoney.com

There are also nine statewide propositions appearing on the ballot. Visit www.smartvoter.org for your personal voter information in your area. Read more inside on voter registration resources and links.

Important Election Dates:

- October 18, 2010 Last day to register to vote
- October 26, 2010 Last day to apply for a vote-by-mail ballot by mail
- November 2, 2010 Election Day!

Send in your renewal form today! As a League member, you are part of an organization where smart, active leaders create lasting change in their communities. –Diane Williams

2010 Health Care Act Speaker at November 17th Meeting

The Patient Protection and Affordable Health Care Act of 2010 was signed into law last spring. Many of us understand some of it, but, because of its length, most of us do not understand all of it.

At our November 17 general meeting, we are fortunate to have as our speaker Dr. Michelle Quiogue. Dr. Quiogue specializes in family medicine at the East Hills office of Kaiser Permanente. She will discuss the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and what family doctors in particular are working on to make health care reform a reality.

A graduate from the program in Liberal Medicine Education at Brown University, Dr. Quiogue is currently president of the Kern County Chapter of the California Academy of Family Physicians and serves as the editor of *California Family Physician Magazine*. At Kaiser she is the Physician Champion of the Culturally Responsive Care Committee.

Dr. Quiogue recently appeared on the Today Show in a program about mothers who provide the primary family income while their spouses assume the role as house husband. She is the mother of a young daughter and has a special interest in teens and women. She is profoundly dedicated to family medicine, a field many young physicians disdain in favor of more lucrative specialties.

A letter Dr. Quiogue wrote to the *Bakersfield Californian* appeared in August in the Community Voices column. In it she discussed why she was not called on at Rep. Kevin McCarthy's town hall meeting on health care and what she would have said if she had the opportunity.

Dr. Quiogue is passionate about her practice and deeply committed to her patients and the community. Come and hear her at the dinner meeting on November 17 at 5:45 pm. Cost of the dinner is \$22 and reservations are required. Please call the League Line, 634-3773, or e-mail Patti Jepsen, patti.jepsen.ak8b@statefarm.com.

- Lynne Rosenstein

Education Topic of November Koffee Klatch

Terri Stanton is hosting a Koffee Klatch on education on November 10 at her home, 5107 Outlook Lane, 93312. It will take place between 7 and 8:30 PM, and light refreshments will be served.

This meeting will look at the current state of public education--grades K-14-- at the local, state, and national levels. Of major importance is the funding of our educational system. We will discuss the impact of funding, or the lack thereof, as well as other issues: such as vouchers, testing, local test results, and anything else the group may want to explore. Please RSVP no later than November 5 by calling Terri at 589-7314.

-Terri Stanton

Women's Equality Day Celebration

Women's Equality Day was celebrated on Sunday, August 29, at the Seven Oaks Country Club. Two outstanding speakers, Cathy Abernathy and Gene Tackett, addressed our timely topic, *Ladies' Day in California Elections*.

Lynne Rosenstein emceed the event. President Diane Williams welcomed the speakers and numerous guests. Cathy and Gene both spoke on their views of the upcoming election and women candidates. An audience participation question/answer session was conducted as well.

Women's Equality Day marked the anniversary of the passage in 1920 of the 19th Amendment that gave women the right to vote.

-Pam Baugher

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Women's Equality Day Participants



Kern Transportation Foundation System Forum 2010

The Kern Transportation Foundation and its organizational partners in presenting Forum 2010 are excited to invite you to attend this unique event scheduled for Wednesday, November 17, from 7:30 AM – 1:30 PM. at the Double Tree Hotel in Bakersfield. The theme for Forum 2010 is *Funding Kern's Transportation System*, an obviously critical concern as we hear about manifold infrastructure deficiencies across the United States.

An outstanding team of presenters led by noted newspaper columnist Dan Walters has been assembled to address the forum theme. Panel presentations will focus on *Local Transportation Funding Needs – Forecasting the Future* and *The Economics of Transportation – What Are the Options?*

This is an excellent opportunity to become more informed about what is and may be happening in Kern County.

Schedule of Events

- Registration 7:30 AM
- Welcome and Introductions 8:30 AM
- Panel Presentations 9:15 – 11:45 AM
- Lunch 12:00 Noon
- Keynote Address 12:30 PM
- Adjournment 1:30 PM

–Patti Ashby

How Do I Know to Vote “Yes” or “No”?

The League of Women Voters is the source for voter information. To get a clear description of each statewide proposition, check out the following links:

- www.easyvoter.org – short summaries with pros and cons

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- www.smartvoter.org – additional information
- www.sos.ca.gov – the state sends each registered voter household an official “Voter Information Guide” with detailed analyses and more information about supporters and opponents

Some propositions can be complicated. Voters often feel overwhelmed by paid advertisements about ballot measures on television and radio. These short messages usually try to persuade you to vote yes or no and do not provide unbiased information.

To help you decide, you can also look to see which groups are supporting or opposing a measure.

Remember: You do not have to vote on every proposition. Choose the ones you want to learn about. If you only vote on some of the measures, your vote still counts.

–Michelle Turner

November 2, 2010 Statewide General Election

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS:

PROP 20 Redistricting of Congressional Districts	OPPOSE
PROP 23 Suspends Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards	OPPOSE
PROP 24 Tax Fairness Act	SUPPORT
PROP 25 Simple Majority Vote for Budget	SUPPORT
PROP 26 “Polluter Protection”	OPPOSE
PROP 27 Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting	STRONG OPPOSE

The League has no recommendations on the following Propositions:

PROP 18 Water Bond Measure	REMOVED FROM THE BALLOT
PROP 19 Legalize and Regulate Marijuana	NO POSITION
PROP 21 \$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks & Wildlife Programs	NEUTRAL
PROP 22 State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds	NEUTRAL

For more detailed information see next article.

–Michelle Turner

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 2!

League of Women Voters California Ballot Measure Positions

The LWVC has recommendations on six of the nine measures on the statewide ballot in November. (Note: Proposition 18, the water bond measure, was removed from the ballot by the Legislature and Governor.) We encourage everyone to be involved in the campaigns.

Redistricting (Propositions 20 and 27): The League **opposes Proposition 20**, which we believe is well-intentioned but premature. California is in the midst of a major reform of our redistricting process, with a new independent Citizens Redistricting Commission drawing the lines for state Senate and Assembly districts. Proposition 20 would significantly increase the commission's workload by adding Congressional redistricting and shortening the time it would have to do its work. We believe the commission should draw Congressional district lines in the future, but the new process should be fully implemented before the commission's responsibilities are expanded so dramatically. In addition, a new definition in this measure could make it harder for the commission to respect California's diverse neighborhoods and communities as it draws district maps. Let's give redistricting reform a chance to work the way the voters intended before we take the next step and add Congressional redistricting.

Proposition 27 would completely eliminate the redistricting commission and return the authority for redistricting to the backrooms of the Legislature, resulting in more gerrymandered districts that serve primarily to help incumbents get reelected. The League **strongly opposes** this measure.

Suspension of Clean Energy and Air Pollution Standards (Proposition 23): The LWVC **opposes** this "Dirty Energy Proposition", funded by out-of-state oil companies, because it would virtually kill AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. It would result in more air pollution and increased health risks and would jeopardize hundreds of thousands of clean-energy jobs. [Find out how you can be involved here.](#)

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[Tax Fairness Act](#) (**Proposition 24**): Proposition 24 would repeal the corporate tax cuts that were passed in the closed-door budget deals of 2008–09. Those tax breaks cost approximately \$1.3 billion per year in revenue to the state and benefit only two percent of California’s businesses. The League **supports** this measure, because we believe that the budget crisis cannot be solved by expenditure cuts alone, let alone expenditure cuts combined with tax cuts.

[Simple Majority Vote for Budget](#) (**Proposition 25**): The LWVC **supports** this measure, which would change the vote required for the Legislature to pass a budget from the current two-thirds to a simple majority. The majority should set priorities for spending and take responsibility for them. This measure will change the negotiations over the budget and give the minority less of a stranglehold on the process.

[“Polluter Protection”](#) (**Proposition 26**): This measure would redefine regulatory fees imposed on companies for harm done to the environment or public health as taxes.

Since taxes, unlike fees, require a two-thirds vote for approval, it would be much harder for state and local governments to seek such payments from those making harmful products or creating public nuisances. The League opposes this measure because we believe that decisions on revenue measures should be made by a simple majority vote.

Final Push to Register for LWVKC

The League has been busy registering voters for the November election. The deadline for registration is Monday, October 18.

September 12, League members staffed two events. Terri Stanton and Lois Watson managed a booth at the Viva Mexico celebration at the Kern County Fairgrounds. Diane Williams and Elva Lopez–Martinez signed up new voters at the Bakersfield Sports Arena on Cottonwood Road. Both locations were successful.

Thursday, September 23, Lois Watson and Pam Baugher registered voters outside of the Budweiser Pavilion at the Kern County Fair. Free t-shirts for new registrations proved an incentive for some.

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The final voter registration event will be on Sunday, October 17, and Monday, October 18, at the Albertson's on the corner of Chester and Brundage Lane. There are two shifts each day: 12 PM – 2 PM, and 2 PM – 4 PM.

As of the writing of this article, volunteers are still needed. Contact Michelle Turner at: mturner@CAPK.ORG

Please look over your calendar and call to sign up to staff a table. It's what League is all about!



Diane and Elva at Bakersfield Sports Arena, September 12.

STAY INFORMED!

www.kerncounty.ca.lwvnet.org

www.ca.lwv.org

www.smartvoter.org

*www.easyvoter.org

*www.cavotes.org

www.lwv.org

Find in-depth information on California ballot propositions on these sites.

City of Bakersfield Pension Measure Presentation

The September LWVKC general meeting at the Petroleum Club was a lively event. President Diane Williams made a short presentation about what the local league had been doing, e.g. voter registration events.

After dinner, Lynne Rosenstein introduced a special guest. Maggie Duncan, Elections & Youth Engagement Program Specialist, LWVUS. Ms. Duncan shared information about the national high school voter registration program with praise for our local efforts. LWVKC registered over 700 high school seniors, and is held up as a nation-wide model.

Lynne then introduced the featured speaker of the evening, Nelson Smith, City Finance Director. Mr. Smith gave a presentation explaining some of the background leading up to the measure being placed on the ballot by the City Council. A very lively question and answer period followed.



Maggie Duncan, Joyce Unfrees, Nelson Smith
& Board Members



Nelson Smith & Lynne Rosenstein

December General Meeting Surprise

Mark your calendars! There will be a very special surprise at the December 15th general meeting of the LWVKC. Janis Hirohama, President of the League of Women Voters of

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California, will be our guest. She is a very dynamic speaker, and the evening program will be unique!

The Mystery Box Reappears

The mystery box is back! Each month, general meeting attendees will have the chance to purchase tickets for winning the Mystery Box opportunity. Each contains something with a minimum value of \$25. The August & September boxes were won by Margo Perry and Michelle Turner respectively. You'll have to ask them to solve the mystery of what was in their boxes! Proceeds from the Mystery Box go to pay for the League Line phone.

KCLWV Welcomes New Members

Lois Watson, membership, is pleased to announce the names of new members to our local league. Please add these names to your membership booklet.

Helen Collins (C) 661.303.3044
4005 Adidas (E) Hcollinsteach2@aol.com
Bakersfield, CA 93309

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Jill Eglund (C) 661.477.2577
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Michelle Turner, 1st Vice President

Lynne Rosenstein, 2nd Vice President

Margo Perry, Secretary

Patti Jepsen Treasurer

Pam Baugher, Voter Editor

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Patti Ashby

Irene Heath

Tracey LaMonica

Terri Stanton

Dee Whitley

The LWVKC in both its values and practices affirms its belief in the commitment to diversity and pluralism. Voting membership is open to all citizens of voting age (18 years); associate membership is open to non-citizens and citizens under the age of 18. Our activities in the community are open to everyone.

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Calendar

October 12—Tuesday, 6:30 pm. LWVKC Board meeting, Merced Center, 2000 K St., Rm. USC 3, 2nd floor.

October 16—Saturday, 2–4 pm, Pro’s & Con’s Understanding the Propositions, CSUB, Rm. BDC 401C, 9001 Stockdale Hwy.

October 17 & 18 ---Voter Registration at Albertsons. See article p. 8.

October 20—Wednesday, 5:45 pm. General meeting. Pro’s & Con’s Understanding the Propositions. Dinner is \$22. Petroleum Club, 5060 California Avenue. No cost for attendance at program only. Reservations due by noon Oct. 18.

October 23—Saturday, 11:30 am. New member luncheon. Country Rose Tearoom, 163 “H” St. Meet the Board & learn more about our organization. Have lunch on us!

November 2 – Tuesday, General Election Day

November 9—Tuesday, 6:30 pm. LWVKC Board meeting, Merced Center, 2000 K St, Room USC–3

November 10—Wednesday, 7– 8:30 pm. Education Koffee Klatch. Terri Stanton, hostess, 5107 Outlook Lane (93312). RSVP by Nov. 5 by calling Terri at 589–7314

November 17—Wednesday, 8:30 – 1:30 pm. Funding Kern’s Transportation System Forum, Double Tree Hotel, 3100 Camino Del Rio Ct., 323–7111. Download registration form at:

<http://www.ktfonline.org>

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December 14 -- Tuesday, 6:30 pm. LWVKC Board meeting, Merced Center, 2000 K St., Rm. USC 3, 2nd floor.

December 15 -Wednesday, 5:45 pm. General meeting. Janis Hirohama, President of LWVC, speaker. Dinner is \$22. Petroleum Club, 5060 California Avenue. No cost for attendance at program only. Reservations due by noon Dec. 13.

Reminder: General meetings are usually on the third Wednesday of the month. If you need transportation to a meeting, please leave that message on the League Line.

Reservations are required for dinner and luncheon meetings and special events. Please call the League Line, 634-3773, by Monday noon prior to the Wednesday event. No charge for attendance at program only. Thank you