



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ®

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President's Message

P.O. Box 836
Loomis, CA 95650
Phone: (916)788-1314
lwvplacer@yahoo.com
Website: www.lwvplacercounty.org

Candace Massey
President

Well, this has been an exciting year and many "Firsts" for our league: the first time we have participated in League studies on Education and Privatization, State Senator Gaines interview, our first student essay contest (see attached article) and a Mental Health forum with four guest speakers on March 24.



Many of us have been very busy with these activities which ultimately have an impact on the quality of our government. My sincere thanks to everyone who has helped to make this happen.

The year will continue to be productive with two elections on June 5 and November 6. There will be many volunteer opportunities for those interested in educating the public regarding Pros/Cons, voter registration and working the voting polls. Please contact us at Lwvplacer@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping us with any of these activities.

Don't forget May 21 is the last day to register to vote in the June 5 primary. Spread the word, **VOTE!**

Visit our website to learn about our League. It contains information about our League, a calendar of events, contact information, and links to other League websites. We update it regularly. Visit our website www.lwvplacercounty.org to learn more about our league.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 19, 10:30 am to 1:00 pm

LWVPC Annual Meeting

Crush 29 Restaurant, 1480 Eureka Road, Roseville

Please be sure to put this important meeting on your calendar. This is the time for all members to gather and make important decisions regarding the year ahead, including election of officers. Watch for the Call to Annual Meeting document which will be mailed mid April.

Mission Statement

"To encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy."

Know your League: Actions and Positions

When the League takes action on an issue, it is because that issue is an approved League position. How does a position become approved? Through a national study and consensus, conducted by hundreds of local leagues. Below is an example of how the League takes action based on approved position. In this case, Campaign Finance, which was first announced by the National Board in January 1974 and revised March 1982.

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

This position is applicable to all federal campaigns for public office — presidential and congressional, primaries as well as general elections. It also may be applied to state and local campaigns.

Below is a recent action (Feb 9, 2012) taken by the League based on the Campaign Finance position.

LEAGUE AND PARTNERS SURPASS FEC PETITION GOAL

Await Response from President Obama on Enforcing Campaign Finance Laws

Washington, DC - Today, the League of Women Voters announced they had surpassed their goal of [25,000 petition signatures](#) on the White House "We the People" website that asks President Obama to appoint new commissioners to the malfunctioning Federal Election Commission (FEC). The League and partners Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Campaign Legal Center, Common Cause, Democracy21 and Public Citizen launched the petition drive on January 11 in order to get a response from the Administration on this critical issue that, to date, it has ignored.

"The Obama campaign's decision this week to allow surrogates to assist Super PACs in raising funds illustrates how broken the system is and that the FEC is asleep at the switch," said Elisabeth MacNamara, national League President. "The only reason that the leading presidential campaigns of both political parties are able to work with the Super PACs is that the FEC is not enforcing the law. Indeed the FEC says this is acceptable. Our democracy needs a fully-functioning FEC," said MacNamara.

The FEC is supposed to be the agency that enforces campaign finance laws, but it is dysfunctional. Of the six commissioners at the agency, three of them staunchly refuse to enforce the law, and five of the six are serving despite expired terms.

"It is time for the President to step up to the challenge, just as he promised he would in his campaign four years ago," said MacNamara. In September 2007, candidate Obama said, "As president, I will appoint nominees to the Commission who are committed to enforcing our nation's election laws."

"Right now, this ball is in the President's court. He needs to make nominations to the FEC," MacNamara said.

"We eagerly await the response from President Obama to our petition. We expect to hear his plans for the government agency charged with enforcing the law and stopping illegal coordination by candidate Super PACs," MacNamara concluded.

Privatization Study: Different Things to Different People ***Submitted by Candace Massey, President***

Privatization, a study adopted by the national League of Women Voters, will be the focus of discussion at the League of Women Voters of Placer County meeting on April 5, 2012 at 11:30 am at Crush Restaurant. We will have co-guest speakers to present their viewpoint on the topic. Outreach to state officials for their perspective has been unsuccessful thus far.

Dr. Jane Kiser is the Research Director for Service Employees International Union, Local 1000, California's largest civil service employees union representing over 90,000 state workers. She holds a PhD in economics. Prior to her employment for SEIU, Dr. Kiser was a member of the faculty of the Indiana University Division of Labor Studies. Sharing the podium with Dr. Kiser is Jack McGlenn, Senior Research Analyst for Local 1000. He is the union's project manager for a campaign to curtail illegal outsourcing. Mr. McGlenn has been a researcher for SEIU for nearly 13 years.

Local chapters of the League of Women Voters are participating in this national study on the privatization of government services. Part of the major challenge is that the privatization of government services is a very complex subject. The magnitude of challenges is very daunting.

Assessing information about Placer County government in regard to the process, accountability and transparency of privatization has proven to be significantly easier than accessing similar information from our state government. Placer County officials have been accessible whereas, so far, state officials have not. Part of the problem is that state government is so fragmented. Many departments do their own contracting and it is not easily reflected in the budget or data.

Under the previous administration, California attempted to host a website to show transparency of government contracts. It was riddled with difficulties in accessing the information and subsequently was taken down. Nevertheless, our League's study committee has continued to plow forward. What we do know is there are millions, if not billions, of public dollars involved. The pro and cons range from those who say privatization of government services can save money and is more efficient, to those who counter that it is rife with less transparency and accountability of taxpayers money.

The term privatization has generally been defined as any process aimed at shifting functions and responsibilities, in whole or in part, from the government to the private sector. It is related to many terms from "outsourcing" to "public-private venture", which is generally a joint venture involving a contractual arrangement between the government and private companies. Another form of privatization is called service shedding, which occurs when the government reduces or stops providing a service altogether and private sector businesses or nonprofit organizations step in if the service is still needed.

As with the study we did on education, there are consensus questions that we will be going over at the April meeting after we present our report and hear the speakers.



Poll Workers Needed for June

This year we will, again, have two polling sites sponsored by the LWV - one in Roseville and one in Auburn. Please let me know if you are able to work on June 5th at either location (or both!!!). We need volunteers for Clerk, Inspector and Judge positions.



I do not have confirmation as to how many per shift we will need - but the more the merrier. Per Jim McCaulley at our January meeting - many precincts have been combined, so we may have more traffic. Please contact Pam Hart at pamula1@hotmail.com if you can volunteer at either location.

Volunteers for these two precincts donate their time and stipend to our League. This is the only source of income for our League at the moment. We are grateful to all our volunteers for helping to raise money for the League's events and operations.

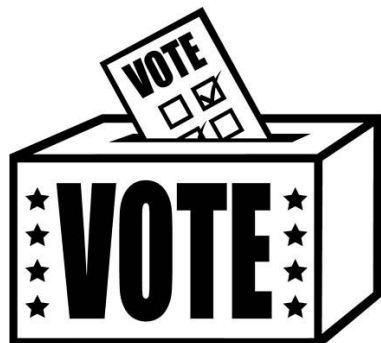
There are also Election Night opportunities as noted below:

Under the direction of the Receiving Center Supervisor, the Receiving Center Worker will perform duties as assigned, which will include traffic control, supply bag and equipment movement, communications and information recording. Must be able to lift up to 30 pounds.

Hours 6:30 p.m. until all assigned polling places have returned their supplies

Stipend for serving: \$50.00 - 110.00 (includes \$10.00 training pay)

Contact Lora Lashley at 530-886-5667



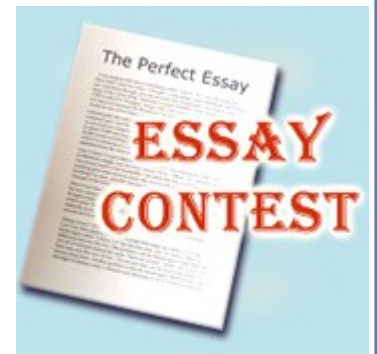
Our First Student Essay Contest

The League of Women Voters-Placer County, has invited a number of high schools within Placer county, to participate in our 2012 Student Essay Contest in honor of March Women's History Month.

For more than 90 years the nonpartisan League of Women Voters has provided voter education and encouraged civic engagement. This year the Placer County chapter of the League is encouraging high school students' engagement on voting in honor of Women History Month. This year's topic is "One Hundred Years Ago California Women Won the Vote: What Should the Vote Mean to Women of 2012?"

The contest is open to high school students, of both genders, from 9-12th grade within Placer County. Participating students must write their own 500-word essay on the subject. All entries must be postmarked no later than April 5, 2012, and mailed to PO Box 836, Loomis, CA 95650. There are three prize categories: 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The first prize winner will receive \$100 and his or her school library will receive the acclaimed book "Winning the Vote: The Triumph of the American Woman Suffrage." The second prizewinner will receive \$75 and his or her school library will receive the DVD "California Women Win the Vote." The third prizewinner will receive \$50 and the school will receive the award-winning DVD "Seneca Falls."

The selected winners will be invited to the League's May 2012 meeting to receive their awards. Winning essays will be published in the League's newsletter and on its web site. Local newspaper publication of the first prizewinner may be possible.



Placer League of Women Voters is proud to offer this Women History Month Student Essay Contest. In addition to the prizes offered, we believe the contest offers opportunity for education and civic engagement for the students who will be the voters of tomorrow about the importance of the vote for all citizens.

A BIG Thank You to Diana Modoshi for making this happen for our League.