



The Placer County Voter

The League of Women Voters of Placer County

Vol. 2, Issue 3

November, 2008

Note the Dates:

Unless otherwise noted, LWV meetings are held on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m., Sierra College Board Rm., 5000 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin, CA

Saturday, November 15th, Members Meeting. Our guest speaker will be M. Kathleen Butz, Associate Justice.

Saturday, January 17th, 2009, Placer County General Plan. Our special guest speaker will be Mike McKeever, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

Saturday, February 21st, 2009, Consensus, State/National program planning.

Saturday, March 21st, 2009, Local Program Planning.

Saturday, April 18th, 2009, Health Care.

A Message from President Kathy Souza

This has been a very exciting election season. I haven't seen this much enthusiasm for an election in years.

I am especially impressed with the enthusiasm of new voters. My nephew, who just turned 19, is extremely interested in this election. That is partly due to the Social Science course he is taking at Sierra College, but I think it is also due to the exciting presidential race and some of the controversial propositions on the ballot. It is wonderful to hear him talk about the research he has done on the candidates and issues.



It has also been interesting to see the enthusiasm of future voters. At the Loomis Town Council candidates forum, we also presented information on the ballot measures. We did not have high expectations of a large turnout for the event, but were pleasantly surprised by the large group of teenagers who attended. We learned that they were all juniors at Del Oro High School and were attending the forum to get extra credit in one of their classes. Rather than just sitting stoically waiting for the evening to end so they could get their forms signed, they eagerly participated in the discussion of the ballot measures and had lots of great questions. It was very interesting to hear what was on their minds.

This election season has been very good for us in terms of visibility. Thanks to some excellent publicity we received from Gold Country Media (which owns several local news publications, including the Auburn Journal), we have been getting requests for speakers for the ballot measures and moderating candidates forums. We have had wonderful opportunities to partner with other community organizations to host forums as part of our voter service efforts.

Our Voter Service Committee has done a great job with voter registration and voter information. I appreciate all their efforts by staffing voter registration tables and answering voter questions. This is one of the most visible and appreciated services that our organization provides.

A special thank you goes to the members who staffed two polling precincts this election. Not only is this in keeping with the League's voter service mission, it also raises money for our League. Members who work the polls on behalf of the League donate their pay to the organization. It has been our only fundraising activity so far, and it has served us well.

Given how young our new organization is – less than a year old – I think we have made tremendous strides. Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make this election a memorable one for our organization.

League of Women Voters of Placer County (LWV) Board of Directors 2008—2009.

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LWV Mission Statement: “To encourage the informed and active participation of citizens in government and to influence public policy through education and advocacy.”

2008-2009 Calendar of Events—Kathy Souza

Our board of directors met during the summer and put together what I believe is a very exciting calendar of events for the coming year. Here are some brief highlights from the calendar, which is also on our website (www.lwvplacercounty.org):

Saturday, November 15 – M. Kathleen Butz, Associate Justice of the 3rd Appellate District. Learn about the history, organization, inner workings of the Appellate Court system.

Saturday, January 17 – Placer County General Plan. Our special guest speaker will be Mike McKeever, Executive Director, Sacramento Area Council of Governments.

Saturday, February 21– Consensus, State/National Program Planning.

Saturday, March 21-Local Program Planning.

Saturday, April 18-Health Care.

Saturday, May 16-Annual Meeting.

We hope you will enjoy the informative events we have planned this year and help us determine what issues to pursue next year.

Membership Survey-Betty Green-Heffern

Help us celebrate the LWVPC first birthday by telling us about YOU!

Last October (2007), a small group met in Placer County to discover the viability of creating a new League of Women Voters. Today, a year later, we have created the League of Women Voters of Placer County and have 60+ members-what a busy year!

Now we need to hear from you, our members, so we will be sending you a LWVPC Membership survey. As a trusted, nonpartisan political organization, our members do the hands-on work to safeguard democracy by providing valuable voter education through candidate forums, general meetings and Pros and Cons presentations. We encourage you to complete the membership survey and share with us how we can continue to be an organization of thoughtful, active members working to create change in our communities.

November Election Candidates Forums—

Kathy Souza

Our League has received a lot of great publicity this year, and the community is very supportive of our organization. The League is well known for its voter service activities. One of our most sought-after services is moderating candidates forums.

Several organizations contacted us to moderate forums for local government races for the November election, including Roseville City Council, Eureka School District Board, Lincoln City Council, Loomis Town Council and Placer Hills School District Board. Audience sizes varied from 40 to over 120. But the consistent feedback we received from all of the audiences was that they were pleased with the way the forums were handled and they appreciated our service.

Kathy Souza and Betty Green-Heffern moderated the forums, with their husbands (also League members) in tow as timers. We hope to recruit more members to moderate, time and help facilitate these forums in future elections. This is one of the best opportunities we have to serve the community and recruit new members.

“We Want You!”— *Kathy Souza*



The board of directors has a couple of vacancies that need to be filled. We are looking for people who are interested in serving on the board of directors and helping us keep our organization running smoothly. Here is a description of the positions available:

Public Relations Director – We need someone to write press releases and email them to the various news agencies in the area. This person can also help us identify publicity opportunities and get the word out about our events.

Program Director – This role entails facilitating our program planning meetings in the spring, during which time we collectively decide our priorities on issues at the local, state and national levels. (These meetings are scheduled to take place in the spring). It also involves coordinating any study activities we may have. We have not identified any local studies for this year. If you would like to join our dynamic, enthusiastic board of directors in either of these capacities, please contact me at or kathysouza2003@yahoo.com or 916-791-5187. We'd love to have you join us.

Get to Know Your Board—

Introducing, Treasurer, Candace Massey. Candace was born and raised in San Francisco and lived in the Bay Area most of her life. Her professional experience includes 30 years in credit card Bank Operations management for the Bank of America and Wells Fargo. In June 2000, Candace moved to Roseville with her husband Michael, sister Susan, three dogs and one cat. Currently she volunteers to help homeless women through *Women's Empowerment* and helped form LWV in Placer County to become better educated regarding politics.

Speakers Bureau Busy During Election Season—*Randi Swisley*

Our Speakers Bureau has kept very busy with the 12 propositions on our November ballot this year. The Kiwanis Club of Roseville, the Retired Teachers Association of Auburn, the Soroptomists of Auburn, and the Student Council at Sierra College each invited us to make private presentations to their groups. With 25-30 people at the service club meetings and 15 at Sierra College, we were happy with the attendance. Public presentations at Unitarian Universalist Church in Auburn and at Sierra College drew over 50-60 people to hear the propositions in detail for over an hour. Del Oro High School sent over 50 students for extra credit to a public presentation at the Blue Goose in Loomis. The Loomis Town Council candidates forum was expanded to include the propositions and drew about a dozen adults in addition to the students. Our entire Speakers Bureau, Darlis Beale, Kathy Souza, Betty Green-Heffern, Charles Bates, and Randi Swisley participated in at least one of these presentations, so it was a great group effort!

Another exciting venue for us was the hour discussion we had on Wave Broad band's News & Views program. Several propositions were presented and calls from viewers were answered. The Wave Broadband staff invited us back the following week to finish up discussion on the remaining issues that were not covered in the first show.

Hopefully, Placer County voters will vote with more knowledge and understanding this coming election. This election is sure to go down in the record books as one of the most eventful in terms of first time diversity of candidates and number of state propositions to consider in a very tough economic climate.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF PLACER COUNTY

Practicing Democracy Where We Live



**California Appellate
Court Associate Justice M. Kathleen Butz
3rd Appellate District**

Join us in November for an interesting morning with Associate Justice M. Kathleen Butz of the 34d Appellate District. Learn about the history, organization, inter workings of the Appellate Court system, and the challenges our courts face. Justice Butz gives a warm, open and informative presentation.

SATURDAY, November 15

10:00 – 11:30 AM

SIERRA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

LIBRARY/LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LRC-133)

5000 ROCKLIN ROAD

ROCKLIN, CA 95677

Special Keynote Speaker Planned for January Meeting—*Karen Tajbl*



Mike McKeever
Executive Director

The Placer County Development Plan

Mike McKeever, Executive Director of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments Board of Directors, is the LWV speaker for the **January 17th meeting from 10:00 a.m.-noon, at the Sierra College Library, room LRC-133**. He was project manager of the “Blueprint” Project at SACOG, which local governments have agreed to be the basis of their future development. Although the Blueprint is not binding on local agencies, it can cause a lot of criticism, especially when they go outside the Blueprint. The plan calls for “smart development” which means that building should take place close to existing communities and transportation.

Mr. McKeever has specialized in the field of planning for over 20 years. He owned and managed two private businesses that specialized in working with local governments on innovative multi-jurisdictional projects. “PLACES” software was the result of his creative work. This is designed to help professional and citizen planners understand the connections between land use, transportation, and air quality issues. He has authored several manuals and guidebooks on various aspects of local government collaboration, and has taught “Stretching Community Dollars” seminars throughout California. His expertise has taken him to all parts of the U.S. to consult on planning issues. The July 7th issue of the Wall Street Journal featured Mr. McKeever on the front page as the expert on “Whether It’s Smart to Be Dense”. This article sited the Sacramento Region as an innovator for good planning.

The passage of AB 235 links land use planning, transportation funding, and housing policy in an attempt to promote smarter developments that will help the state meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction mandate. With this new law and the high price of gasoline, it may be time to formulate a new “Blueprint”. This is a good question for Mr. McKeever who was in favor of this legislation.

He is a native of Nampa, Idaho and received his BA with Honors from the University of Oregon. He lives in Sacramento with his wife and stepchildren.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF PLACER COUNTY**

JOIN THE LEAGUE

- Yes, I want to join the League of Women Voters of Placer County.
- Individual Membership \$60.00 Household Membership \$90.00
- I am unable to join the League at this time, but enclose a contribution of \$_____.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone (day/eve): _____

Cell phone: _____

Email: _____

My interests include:

- Program/Action
- Voter Service
- Fundraising for League projects
- Study Committees
- Special Projects

The League will help you...

- Be more informed about decisions you need to make that shape your community and your future
- Work on issues that directly affect you, your family and your community
- Become a problem solver
- Vote smart by being a smart voter through understanding the issues and how they affect your life

Print this page, fill it out, and mail it with your check to:

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Because we lobby on public policy issues, membership dues and contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax deductible as a charitable contribution.