



The Placer County Voter

The League of Women Voters of Placer County

Vol. 2, Issue 2

September, 2008

Note the Dates:

Sunday, September 28th, Voter Forum and Pros and Cons of the ballot measures for November 4th ballot. 11:30-1:00p.m. at the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists Church, 190 Finley St., Auburn, CA

Saturday, October 11th, Voter Forum and Pros and Cons of the ballot measures for November 4th ballot. 9:30-11:30 a.m. Sierra College, 500 Rocklin Rd. Rocklin, CA

Saturday, November 15th, M. Kathleen Butz, Associate Justice. 10:00a.m., Sierra College Board Rm., 5000 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin, CA

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

A Message from President Kathy Souza

After what feels like a very brief hiatus, our organization is back in full swing. With a very full election season ahead, we are busy fulfilling requests for speakers and candidate forums. It is very satisfying to see that we are getting visibility in the community and are sought after for our voter information and moderating expertise.

We have been approached by several community organizations to co-sponsor candidate forums for several races. Unfortunately, it is proving very difficult to get a commitment on the date and type of format for some of them. It makes planning and publicity very difficult and last minute. For example, at the time this article is being written, we have been unable to secure a commitment for a forum for the Congressional District 4 race. We hope we can get an agreement soon so we can provide this very important voter service to our community. We will keep our members posted of the candidate forums that we are able to provide as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, we have been very successful in our other voter service activities. We will once again be staffing two polling places this November. Not only is it a community service, it also serves as a fundraising activity for our organization. If you are interested in volunteering on November 3, please contact us at lwvplacer@yahoo.com.

We will also train members to speak on behalf of the League in presenting information on the November 4 ballot measures. We have already received several requests to speak to several community organizations in addition to the voter forum we have planned for October 11 (see 08-09 Calendar of Events). This valuable voter service is what our organization is known for, and we are happy to provide it. If you know of an organization that would like to schedule a speaking engagement, please email us at lwvplacer@yahoo.com.

We are fortunate to have started our organization during such a busy election year. Not only have we been able to raise money by working the polls, we have also increased our visibility as well as our membership. We are now up to 60 members! Not bad for a fledgling organization!

Thank you to all our volunteers who have worked hard to get us where we are today.

Kathy Souza, President



Randi Swisley and Kathy Souza

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, October 11 – Voter forum. League members will present information on the ballot measures on the November 4 ballot.

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.

In the spring, we will hold meetings for the planning of the League's local, state and national program. This is when we identify what we think are priorities for the coming year at each level of our organization. We will also have an informational meeting on health care, which was identified as an issue for emphasis at both the local and national levels this year

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

Member Orientation, Saturday, October 25, 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.—Kathy Souza

If you are new to the League of Women Voters, the organization can seem confusing and even mysterious. We would like to dispel some of the confusion and mystery by holding a member orientation.

Please come and meet the members of our board of directors as well as other new members. Enjoy some social time and learn more about our organization. We will discuss the League history, mission and operations. We will tell you more about the activities we have planned this year and how you can get involved.

Join us for coffee and morning munchies at the home of our president, Kathy Souza (4603 Crombie Court, Granite Bay). Please feel free to bring along any friends or neighbors that you think may also be interested in learning more about the League.

League of Women Voters Forums concerning Ballot Issues— *Kathy Souza*

There are 12 Ballot Issues, including one addressing redistricting, for the public to vote on for the November 4th election. The League of Women Voters of Placer County will present the pros and cons of these propositions at two different locations where the public is invited to attend. Questions will be taken from the audience and there is no admission charge. Information about the issues and a voter guide will be available.

The first presentation is Sunday, September 28th from 11:30-1:00 p.m., at the Sierra Foothills Unitarian Universalists Church, located at 190 Finley Street, across from the Placer High School. The Social Action Committee of the church, is sponsoring this event. Snacks will be available.

The League of Women Voters of Placer County and the Roseville and Auburn chapters of the American Association of University Women are sponsoring a meeting on the ballot measures October 11 from 9:30-11:30, in room 133 at the Library at Sierra College in Rocklin. For more information email lwvplacer@yahoo.com or phone 530-823-5015.

Get Information on the November Ballot— *Kathy Souza*

The League of Women Voters produces a lot of helpful voter information during each election. We've created links to this information on our own website: www.lwvplacercounty.org. Click on the word "Election Information" near the bottom of our main page. You will find information regarding the state ballot measures, the League's positions on the ballot measures, an Easy Voter Guide – even an article on the process for electing the president.

You will also find a link to the SmartVoter website. This website is a collaboration of the League and other organizations to provide specific information based on a voter's address. You will find your polling place, the candidates that will be on your ballot, and information on all the ballot measures just by typing in your address.

We hope you will find this information useful for you in the November election. Remember to vote on November 4!

Know Your Community Project— *Candace Massey*

We have kicked off our first project meeting for "Know your Community" which was held on September 3, 2008. The purpose of this project is to educate the public on elected government positions. Our focus is on the position and not the person. We will identify the positions, purpose, compensation, mission, term limits, budget and contract information. Once this information is gathered for the federal, state and county positions, we will publish a booklet, with possible additional marketing to news medias. This will be a very educational project for all involved. If you have an interest in joining us on this detailed task please contact Candace Massey at (916) 788-1314. We need as many involved members as possible to complete this project.

Tips to Find Your Elected Officials— *Kathy Souza*

The Know Your Community project is designed to help Placer County residents understand who represents them. You can find some of that information today on the Placer County Elections Department website, along with a list of the districts for your area. Just follow these steps using your address:

1. Go to www.placer.ca.gov/recorder/elections.aspx.
2. Click on "Districts and Incumbents" on the left side of the page.
3. Click on "Districts/Incumbents Lookup" at the bottom of the page.
4. Select your city from the scrolling list, enter a few letters of your street address, then click on the "Next" button.
5. Select your street and click on the "Next" button.
6. Type in your street address number and click on "Next" button.
7. Select the options to view your elected representatives or the districts for your area.

Special Keynote Speaker Planned for November Meeting—*Margie Spalding*

Introducing
 California Appellate
 Court Associate Justice M. Kathleen Butz
 3rd Appellate District
 November 15, 2008
 10:00 a.m. Sierra College Board Rm.
 5000 Rocklin Rd., Rocklin CA 95677



Join us in November for an interesting morning with Associate Justice M. Kathleen Butz of the 3rd Appellate District. Learn about the history, organization, inner workings of the Appellate Court system, and the challenges our courts face. Justice Butz gives a warm, open and informative presentation.

Justice Butz was born and raised in Auburn, California. She graduated from Placer High School in Auburn and attended the University of California at Davis where she obtained her B.A. degree. After several years working in the School of Engineering and Shields Library at the University of Davis, she went on to obtain her Juris Doctorate Degree from King Hall School of Law at UC Davis.

Justice Butz practiced law in Nevada City from 1982 to 1996. She was elected to the County Superior Court in 1996 and served two terms. In October 2003, Justice Butz was elevated to the Associate Justice in the Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District.

Justice Butz has served as an instructor of judicial education for the California Center for Judicial Education and Research and the B.E. Witkin Judicial College of California. She served as chair of CJER's Rural Courts Education Committee and currently serves as a member of the Appellate Justices Education Committee. She also serves as a member of the Judicial Council's Appellate Indigent Defense Oversight Advisory Committee.

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

Mike McKeever, head of the Sacramento area regional planning agency, will be the keynote speaker at our LWV January 17th meeting. The Wall Street Journal highlighted Mr. McKeever on the front page of the July 7th issue with an article about "smart development". With the high cost of oil, we will have to start thinking about solving the high cost of commuting with the possibility of high density housing close to the location of jobs and shopping. Mr. McKeever, along with local representatives of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments, have developed a "Blue Print" for the area that includes the following counties: Placer, El Dorado, Sacramento, Sutter, and Yolo. The idea is to grow outward in areas close to transportation and areas already developed and with a higher density. Green spaces would be preserved. Local governments do not have to abide by the "Blue Print". A good example is Placer Vineyards, which is close to Sacramento and Roseville. The Placer Board of Supervisors approved a lower-density plan than what outlined in the blueprint. The project is under litigation for that and other environmental reasons.

In addition to Mr. McKeever, we will have other panel members to present other perspectives on the planning process. Put this date on your calendar as this keynote speaker is very dynamic.



**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:

League of Women Voters of Placer County
P.O. Box 836
Loomis, CA 95650

Email: lwwplacer@yahoo.com

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.