



# THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

*Celebrating over 50 years of service to our communities*

Website: [www.LWVSSMC.org](http://www.LWVSSMC.org) Phone: (650) 325-5780 E-mail: [info@LWVSSMC.org](mailto:info@LWVSSMC.org)

FEBRUARY 2012

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Use the form on the back cover to support the League. Full membership is \$75/year, July-June.

NOTE THE CHANGE TO 6PM STARTING TIME:

**THURSDAY, JAN. 26, 6:00PM <==**

**The Grand Boulevard Initiative**  
(addressing the El Camino Corridor in all of San Mateo County)  
**"The Grand Boulevard / Menlo Park: Past, Present, Future"**

Time: 6:00pm, on Thursday the 26th of January

Place: Social Hall of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, entrance behind ACE Hardware at 700 Santa Cruz Ave., in downtown Menlo Park.

Co-Sponsors: Greenbelt Alliance, Samtrans, Menlo Park Chamber of Commerce and the LWVSSMC (League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County).

This program is an open forum on the **Grand Boulevard Initiative** as it may apply in Menlo Park. The program will address the past and present development of El Camino Real as an urban/suburban boulevard throughout San Mateo County. Our League's committee on Climate Change and Local Issues has a special interest in the ways future development in the El Camino Corridor may fit with SB375 for the Bay Area. The Bay Area is one of the "MPO" units in California (Metropolitan Planning Organizations) that are submitting Sustainable Community Strategies to the California Air Resources Board in compliance with SB375 (Steinberg), passed in 2008 as a land use planning element in helping to meet the targets of AB32 (passed in 2006) which is the state's Global Warming Solutions Act. Contact: Patty Boyle, co-chair, with Evan Hughes, of our committee on Climate Change and Local issues, at 854-4046 or [p.boyle@comcast.net](mailto:p.boyle@comcast.net). [26 January meeting information: [info@greenbelt.org](mailto:info@greenbelt.org)]

Come and bring a friend !!! *This co-sponsored forum is open to all !!!*  
and

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 9:30-NOON:**  
**COUNTY LEAGUE DAY !!!**

at the Alpine Hills Tennis and Swimming Club in Portola Valley: 4139 Alpine Rd., 2.3 miles west of the 280 at the Alpine Road exit. Wanda Ginner and Joyce Tavrow, League members who are on the statewide committee to organize the **Initiative and Referendum Study** will speak. Also, this is the annual meeting to discuss and approve the year's positions and priorities at the county level. (*See Page 7.*)

**For information or help with transportation contact:**  
**Ellen Hope, [ellenjhope@aol.com](mailto:ellenjhope@aol.com), (650) 839-8647**

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**Also this month: February 4, Saturday, in Oakland, from 9am-2pm: "Housing and the Bay Area's Future" is the theme of this year's annual Bay Area League Day. Location: First Unitarian Church of Oakland, 685 14th Street. (*See Page 4.*)**

## FROM THE BOARD\*

by Evan Hughes

During this 2011-12 year the Board has discussed membership renewals and membership recruitment at several meetings. I observe that members and potential members have different reasons for being supporters or members. I see the following types of interest and participation:

1. Financial Support, with or without participation, which is given because a person wants to help assure that the League, at all levels (Local, Bay Area, State and National) is able to perform its functions in matters that include voter registration, voter information and services, objective and civil airing and discussion of issues, study of issues, developing League positions on issues, and advocating and publicizing League positions.
2. Voter Education and Services, which includes joining with other League members to do one or more activity to expand and better inform voters' participation in elections, especially local elections. These activities come to mind: registering voters, distributing registration information, organizing and conducting Candidates' Forums, where League members find dates, locations and video coverage for meetings at which candidates for a particular public office make statements and answer questions for both a live audience and cable TV and internet audiences afterwards.
3. Observing Public Meetings. The League has some members who observe, in person or via cable TV, the internet, or other means, what public bodies such as City Commissions, City Councils, Boards of Supervisors, etc. are hearing and doing. This activity helps to make public aware that the League is watching and also helps fellow League members know of government activity and possible actions.
4. Discussions and Studies, which bring League members and friends together to educate each other and exchange information and views on current topics or books of interest. Official League "Studies" are structured via State or National committees and "consensus" questions, and are 1-2-year-long efforts. Our local discussions are usually informal, and may involve planning public meetings, writing comments to government agencies and applying, or recommending, League positions on issues.
5. Advocacy and Action, which involves League members, who so choose, in presenting League positions and advocating for League positions on issues. This can be at any level (Local, Bay Area, State or National) and may be on specific legislation or executive action, but is never on a specific candidate or official, nor is it for or against any political party. (*continued* →)

6. Outreach and Training, which involves League members doing publicity, mailings, emails, other distribution of information and materials, regarding the League or regarding issues. Outreach and training can also, if one so chooses, consist of more in-depth interaction with youth, new voters, new League members or League members who want to become more informed and involved in matters of elections and government.

Regarding Items 4 and 5 above, I note that League discussion and study may, or may not, lead to League action intended to make known and persuade others of the position that the League chooses to take on specific issues and potential, or actual, government actions. Discussions and meetings are often "education" rather than "action."

Which one, or more, of these fits your own life and interests today? Contact us at the League of Women Voters of South San Mateo County, 713 Santa Cruz Ave. (Suite 9), Menlo Park CA 94025, or (650) 325-5780, or [info@lwvssmc.org](mailto:info@lwvssmc.org).

*Evan Hughes, VOTER Editor*  
[evanhughesphd@aol.com](mailto:evanhughesphd@aol.com)

*\* The "From the Board" column will be written by a different Board member each month.*

## BOARD NOTES

At the January 9 meeting, the Board:

- Approved the report of program planning;
- Learned that new membership brochures are being printed;
- Established a pattern of every other year printing of the roster and the 'handbook,' an expanded roster including bylaws and policies;
- Scheduled the annual meeting for Saturday May 12, 9:30 to noon at the Arrillaga Family Recreation Center in Menlo Park;
- Discussed returning to a mailed Voter, with electronic Voter also available, and whether or not to renew our bulk mail permit;
- Agreed to pay registration fee but not food for LWVC Regional Workshop attendees; and
- Learned that we had over 200 responses to the fundraising letter, with donations of \$3265.

The next Board meeting will be on Monday, February 6, at 7pm at Lucile Spurlock's.

*Lucile Spurlock, Board Secretary*

**IF YOU PREFER TO RECEIVE  
YOUR VOTER VIA USMAIL,  
SEND YOUR STREET ADDRESS  
TO [info@lwvssmc.org](mailto:info@lwvssmc.org).**

## NEW VOICES FOR YOUTH

Students who participated in last year's New Voices project at Menlo-Atherton High School have provided some wonderful feedback about their experience working on making a video on a topic concerning their life at M-A High School. A new group of students have started working with Ana and Tanuj and will be discussing topics of interest to themselves and their community. Soon they will begin learning about making videos to put their ideas into film. Here are some quotes in answer to a question:

*Do you think any differently about the role of video (in your life and in your community) since you participated in the New Voices program? What has changed for you?*

- *I feel like I helped the community by putting an issue out there and actually spending time on this particular issue to bring awareness to the community itself.*
- *I think it made me think about different things from a different perspective.*
- *The people in my community are just like the students at menlo ather-ton. They will give you the "look" like you don't belong here. Which makes me uncomfortable. I don't care now.*
- *It opened up thoughts and questions about society in general.*

Visit [newvoicesforyouth.org](http://newvoicesforyouth.org) and click on Screening Room to see "The Green" – last year's project.

New Voices is a youth outreach project sponsored by the LWVs of Palo Alto and South San Mateo County. Join our steering committee by contacting Kathleen Weisenberg ([davkatweisenberg@att.net](mailto:davkatweisenberg@att.net)) in South San Mateo County, or Veronica Tincher ([vtincher@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vtincher@sbcglobal.net)) in Palo Alto.

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## BOOK GROUP

The book group has changed out meeting day to the fourth Thursday of the month.

For February the LWV Book Group will meet on February 23rd at 2:30 pm to discuss the book:

***This Is Not the Life I Ordered: 50 Ways to Keep Your Head Above Water When Life Keeps Dragging You Down*, by Deborah Collins Stephens, Michealene Cristini Risley, Jackie Speier, and Jan Yanehiro.**

For information about attending the meeting please contact Judy Orttung at 650-847-1779 or [jorttung@comcast.net](mailto:jorttung@comcast.net)

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**NATIONAL LWVUS CLIMATE CHANGE PERSPECTIVE:** Patty Boyle brought the following to the attention of the Editor: "Climate Change News for Dec. 2011" by Chad Tolman ([ctolman@udel.edu](mailto:ctolman@udel.edu)), who has led some LWVUS efforts on climate change education and action:

[climate\\_change\\_news-owner@yahoo.com](mailto:climate_change_news-owner@yahoo.com).

## CLIMATE CHANGE AND LOCAL ISSUES

This is a committee of our local League. We discuss issues and possible actions related to local issues that have relevance for global climate change, such as Saltworks, transportation, housing and land use. We tie these issues to California legislation on climate change and global warming, especially AB32 and SB375. Patty Boyle and Evan Hughes are the co-chairs of this committee on Climate Change and Local Issues. Patty has collaborated with several other groups to join them in co-sponsoring the second in a series of public forums to hear about and discuss the Grand Boulevard Initiative. (**See Page 1.**) This forum, **at 6pm on January 26th**, will focus on Menlo Park, in the context of the total initiative, which addresses the El Camino corridor in from South San Francisco through Santa Clara.

In general, committee members want to study and discuss these issues for the purposes of voter education and possible action by our League based on League positions on environment, housing, transportation, climate change, the Bay, etc. During the past year and continuing into next some of us have had special interest in the implementation of AB32 (California's Global Warming Solutions Act) and SB375. SB375 addresses regional planning to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are the result of automobile and truck travel and transportation (VMT or vehicle miles travelled) and the role of local and regional land-use, transportation and housing decisions.

**If interested, contact Patty:**

***Patty Boyle 854-4046***

***[p.boyle@earthlink.net](mailto:p.boyle@earthlink.net)***

Evan Hughes (**VOTER** Editor), and Patty Boyle are the co-chairs.

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## LOCAL DISCUSSIONS ON "PRIVATIZATION OF PUBLIC SERVICES"

On January 18th some of our LWVSSMC members met at the League office to plan our local participation in the national LWVUS study on Privatization. Details will be in the next **VOTER**. (**See Page 6.**)

### MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2011-12

**Remember to send in your check for \$75, with the form you received in June. (Also, please fill in the survey form to indicate your interests.) Use the form on the back page of this **VOTER**, if you do not have the June letter. Please note two things:**

- 1. Our League's year for membership is July-June, not the calendar year.**
- 2. Membership is now local not national; the LWVUS no longer enrolls "national members" and this means that any money sent to LWVUS is now considered a contribution, and is not treated as dues.**

[LWVBayArea.org](http://LWVBayArea.org) invites you to join us to learn about:

## Housing and the Bay Area's Future

Saturday, February 4, 9am (until 2pm, and with lunch)  
First Unitarian Church of Oakland,  
658 14th Street at Clay, Oakland,  
CA 94612 (near Preservation Park)

**Keynote Speaker: DAVID ROSEN, a leading expert in the field of affordable housing, finance, policy, land use, lending and investment strategic planning. Plus 9 other speakers from local agencies. (See right hand column —>.)**

Panels will look at the problems facing housing today including:

- \* implementation of SB 375;
  - \* sources and uses of public money;
  - \* difficulties of community support;
- In addition there will be panels of experts on:
- \* meeting regional housing needs in light of the sustainable communities' strategy;
  - \* difficulties of financing affordable housing; &
  - \* how to serve the hardest to house.

**Cost: In advance: \$30 (\$15 without lunch).  
At the door \$35 (\$20 without lunch).**

### REGISTRATION:

To register please write a check payable to "LWVBA" and mail, including your name and any guest names, to:

LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300,  
Oakland, CA 94612.

Registration is also available online through **January 27** via PayPal at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>.

For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an email to:

[editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org)

**What are the implications of this important decision? —>**

## BAY AREA LEAGUE

*The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area*

### Bay Area League Day

**"Housing and the Bay Area's Future"**

**Saturday, February 4, 2012**

**9am-2pm**

**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF OAKLAND**

**685 14th Street, Oakland**

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area has chosen regional housing as the topic for its next annual Bay Area League Day educational forum. The event will feature a keynote speech from **DAVID ROSEN** of David Paul Rosen & Associates, and three panels of experts discussing 1) how to meet regional housing needs in compliance with the sustainable communities strategy mandated by California Senate Bill 375, 2) how to finance affordable housing, and 3) how to provide housing for the poor and the homeless:

#### 1) POLICY

Ken Kirkey, Association of Bay Area Governments  
Duane Bay, San Mateo County Housing Department

Richard Marcantonio, Public Advocates

#### 2) FINANCE

Jack Nagle, Goldfarb & Lipman LLP

Linda Mandolini, Eden Housing

Susan Friedland, Affordable Housing Associates

#### 3) UP AGAINST THE WALL

Tim Iglesias, University of San Francisco

Mary Murtagh, EAH Housing

Elaine de Coligny, EveryOne Home

**Cost:** \$30 (\$15 without lunch) in advance, and \$35 (\$20 without lunch) at the door. Breakfast is included for both options.

**Registration:** Please write a check payable to "LWVBA" and mail, including your name and any guest names, to **LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612.**

Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at

<http://www.lwvbayarea.org>.

For more details, call (510) 839-1608 or send an email to [editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org).

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**"State Supreme Court upholds abolition of redevelopment agencies" LA Times – December 29, 2011**

## BAY AREA LEAGUE

From the **Bay Area Monitor** (a publication of the **Education Fund of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area**)

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### BCDC Amends Bay Plan

By Gail Schickele

In order to address sea level rise, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission unanimously adopted an amendment to its San Francisco Bay Plan on October 6. BCDC uses the plan to guide the approval of permit applications within its jurisdiction, which some stakeholders feared would broaden under the amendment.

“To overcome concerns we pointed out that the commission’s jurisdiction doesn’t change, and that it can only change with a change in state law,” BCDC Executive Director Will Travis told the **Monitor**.

The commission’s jurisdiction consists of the open water, marshes, and mudflats of the greater San Francisco Bay, along with salt ponds, managed wetlands, and some creeks and rivers that empty into the Bay. It also extends to the first 100 feet inland from the Bay shoreline at mean high tide. The mean high tide line, an elevation established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is expected to change as water levels reach up to 55 inches by century’s end.

Formally, the plan’s recent amendment adds a new section on climate change findings and policies, while also revising sections dealing with tidal marshes and tidal flats, the safety of fills, protection of the shoreline, and public access findings and policies.

The amendment eliminates outdated language and adjusts policies to “allow protection from flooding, encourage innovative means of dealing with flood danger, and make it clear that local governments will determine how best to deal with development proposals inland of the commission’s jurisdiction.” . . .

. . . Previous language in the plan recommended that new development not be approved in low-lying areas in danger of flooding now or in the future, unless the development is elevated above possible flood levels.

“That was used as a recommendation to local governments,” Travis said. “That language changes [because] in low-lying areas you must take sea level into account, but that applies only to BCDC.” Inland of BCDC’s permit jurisdiction, it doesn’t dictate policy to local governments, developers, or other entities. (*continued* →)

The amendment’s potential impact on development has been a contentious issue, such as how it might affect the 1,426-acre project proposed at the Cargill Saltworks site in Redwood City. “The policy does not pre-approve or pre-deny any project,” Travis said. “It provides the policy the commission will use when it evaluates whatever Saltworks submits to us.” . . .

. . . “I was most pleased at the end of the day... that fundamentally the language is the same as the original recommendation in 2009 that everyone was worried about,” Travis said. “There are tweaks if you look at the change in language, but they are for the most part clarifications and refinements. The principal policies are as they were proposed.” He pointed out that the amended policies received support from developers, labor interests, the business community, environmental organizations, and government, and that the commission unanimously approved the amendment. “I am most pleased with the unanimous decision and the board support,” he added.

The amendment is a long-awaited step born from BCDC’s 2009 draft report *Living with a Rising Bay*, which incorporates climate science and maps of low-lying shoreline areas vulnerable to flooding from sea level rise and storm surge.

BCDC recently approved a final version of the report summarizing the latest scientific research on climate change and sea level rise. It confirmed the likelihood that the Bay will rise 10 to 17 inches by 2050, 17 to 32 inches by 2070, and 31 to 69 inches by 2100.

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### Global Climate Change Information:

Access to good information about global climate changes can be found at:

<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/climatechange/index.html>

The way to find it on the LWVC website is under Issues—

What is a Position?—Global Climate Change.

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**For relevant articles on issues see**  
**[The Bay Area Monitor at](#)**  
**[www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org)**

In the Dec.-Jan. issue, the other articles are on these topics:

- Indoor Air Quality (CO and particulates) by Alec McDonald;
- Electric Vehicle Strategy by Alec McDonald;
- Dumbarton Rail Revival by Cecily O’Connor;
- Bird Habitat and the Tidal Lands of the Bay by Chris Ingraham.

Alec McDonald is the editor of the **[Bay Area Monitor](#)**.

## STATE LEAGUE: LWVC

### SAVE THE DATE !!!

STATE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AT THE LEAGUE'S STATE AND NATIONAL LEVELS:

(1) THE CALIFORNIA STATE BUDGET, AND

(2) THE 2012 ELECTIONS,

AND, ALSO LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL "PRIVATIZATION" STUDY

Saturday, Feb. 25th, in San Jose

9:00am-3:00pm

This is the State League's **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA REGIONAL MEETING** on the California State Budget, the 2012 Elections, and the study on "Privatization of Government Services" and it will be held in San Jose at the **Martin Luther King Jr. Main Library, 150 East San Fernando Street (at 4th Street), in downtown San Jose.**

The meeting is being hosted by the San Jose / Santa Clara League, per the message below from their president Gloria Chun Hoo, who is the local contact for information on the meeting.

The state contact is Crowie Billik, our local Membership Training Advisor: [crownie@billik.com](mailto:crownie@billik.com).

The email message from Gloria Chun Hoo to our president Lisa Conrad was as follows:

"Our league is hosting the 2012 LWV No. California Regional Meeting on Sat. Feb. 25 from 9 am to 3 pm. We have secured the MLK Library's large meeting space for the meeting.

"We will have Helen Hutchinson talking about the State Budget and the study we will do *[Editor's Note: the Initiative and Referendum Study, per Page 5]*, and Lianne Campodonico speaking about the 2012 elections and getting ready for it.

"Our regional topic will be Privatization – the national study. Cathy Lazarus from Mountain View/ Los Altos will moderate panel with Jane Light, SJ Librarian who'll talk about trend to privatize libraries and (tentatively) John Tang, government relations person from SJ Water to talk about benefits of privatization.

Gloria"

Gloria Chun Hoo  
President, LWV San Jose-Santa Clara  
[glocalifornia@yahoo.com](mailto:glocalifornia@yahoo.com)

### June 5, 2012 Election - Two Primary Systems on One Election Day

Next June, voters will see Presidential Primary candidates on familiar partisan ballots according to political party affiliation. However, for statewide offices (i.e., state constitutional offices, U.S. Congress, and state legislative offices),



all candidates running in the State-wide Primary Election for these offices will appear on a single primary election ballot and voters can vote for any candidate. In this Top-Two Open Primary system, the top two overall vote-getters – not the top vote-getter from each qualified political party – will move on to the general election. Between now and the June 2012 election, California voters can look to the League for reliable information about the changes in the election system, the newly redrawn districts, and overall election news in various ways via [LWVC.org](http://LWVC.org) or [cavotes.org](http://cavotes.org).

**OneJustice**, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to increase access to legal help for underserved Californians, is holding hearings throughout the state about the civil justice crisis and how it threatens access to justice and legal services for Californians in need. The LWVC is represented on the advisory group for OneJustice by former LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama. You can RSVP to attend a hearing and find more info at [www.californiahearings.org](http://www.californiahearings.org).

### Help Abolish the Death Penalty - Support the SAFE California Act Initiative

The League of Women Voters supports abolition of the death penalty and believes it's time to halt executions in California. The LWVC supports the SAFE California Act, an initiative being circulated for signatures to qualify for the ballot.

This initiative will replace the death penalty with permanent imprisonment (life without the possibility of parole), including the conversion of existing death sentences to that alternative. Some of the savings created by no longer seeking and imposing death sentences would be used to bolster the capacity of law enforcement to solve the serious crimes of rape and homicide. Convicted murderers would be required to work behind bars and pay restitution.

Get involved; visit the California Taxpayers for Justice campaign site.

### League of Women Voters of California

1107 Ninth Street, Suite 300 | Sacramento, CA 95814  
phone: 916-442-7215 | fax: 916-442-7362 |  
email: [lwvc@lwvc.org](mailto:lwvc@lwvc.org)  
[lwvc.org](http://lwvc.org) | [cavotes.org](http://cavotes.org) | [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org) | [easyvoter.org](http://easyvoter.org)

## LWVC (continued)

### INITIATIVE UPDATE STUDY: January 2012 Status

A Study of Initiative and Referendum in California was launched last year, in accordance with the decision of delegates to the League of Women Voters of California State Convention in spring of 2011, to review and update the League's position on the initiative and referendum processes. The Study Committee was comprised of members from local Leagues across the state, and, following an initial meeting in late August of 2011, the following scope of the Study was approved by the State Board:

- a review of the current LWVC Position on the Initiative and Referendum Process;
- the history of initiative and referendum, with a focus on California;
- how the initiative and referendum processes have changed and are changing;
- identification of key issues for California;
- ideas for change and reform of the initiative and referendum processes; and
- creation of community education and outreach material for use by local Leagues and other groups.

After months of research, the Study Committee met again the weekend of January 7-8<sup>th</sup> 2012, and is pleased to report that the Study Guide and Leader's Guide are well underway. The Committee has reaffirmed its intention to stick to the timeline previously laid out, with a goal of completing the Guides by this summer. The Study Committee will continue to dedicate itself to these undertakings and the formation of consensus questions at the present; throughout the Fall, the Committee will focus on producing quality and abundant community education material and help local Leagues to prepare for Consensus Meetings next winter. After tabulating consensus reports, the Study Committee plans to submit a proposed position to the Board in spring of 2013.

As League members who have connected with the Study Committee on its Facebook group (League of Women Voters of California Initiative & Referendum Study) are well aware, there is a wealth of material in which League members who are interested in the Study are invited to delve. Our **Facebook** page is also an excellent medium to stay apprised of Study progress, as well as a forum to share articles and your own thoughts and ideas. If you haven't visited the Study on Facebook, please do! If you are craving even more in depth information, you are invited to visit the Study website for even more resources: *(continued —>)*

<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvonly/studies/2011-initiative-and-referendum/index.html>.

At this time, the Study Committee would also like to encourage local Leagues to prepare to hold a public forum this coming Fall in advance of the election. Such a forum will not only undoubtedly be in high demand, due to the hype sure to stem from a November ballot promising to be stacked with both initiatives and, unusually, referendum measures, but will also serve to stimulate interest in the forthcoming Consensus Meetings. Keep visiting the Study Committee website for more information and material for such an event, including speaker suggestions, a PowerPoint presentation, handouts, and plenty of fodder to stimulate conversation. The Study Committee looks forward to continuing to engage with local members now and as the Study progresses.

Read more about the initiative and referendum study at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/initiative-and-referendum.html>.

Members of the LWVC Initiative and Referendum Study Committee can be contacted at: [irstudy@lwvc.org](mailto:irstudy@lwvc.org).

Wanda Ginner prepared the above material based on the website and discussions of the LWVC committee. She is a longtime member of our League and is also on the statewide LWVC committee organizing this study. Both she and Joyce Tavrow, who is a former president of our League, but now a resident of Palo Alto, are presenting the issues involved in reform of the initiative & referendum (and also the plans for the LWVC update study) at our County League Day on Feb. 11, as shown on Page 1 and Page 8 in this **VOTER**.

Wanda can be reached at [wanda@ginner.com](mailto:wanda@ginner.com).

**See Page 1 on the Feb. 11th (Sat. 9:30am-noon) County League Day program on California Initiative and Referendum Reform.**

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#### Global Climate Change Information:

Access to good information about global climate changes can be found at:

<http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/issues/climatechange/index.html>

The way to find it on the LWVC website is under Issues—  
What is a Position?—Global Climate Change.

*[Editor's Note: The biennial LWVC Convention will be in May 2013. This year, 2012, the LWVC holds a "Council" in Sacramento, on May 19-20.]*

## LWWUS (National)

### Privatization: The Public Policy Debate December 22, 2011 ([www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org))

The purpose of this article is to provide a description of the evolution of the public policy known as "Privatization." Privatization is a movement to deregulate private industry and transfer many government services, assets and functions to the private sector.

#### Claims and Concerns:

Those promoting privatization claim that:

- the private sector can provide increased efficiency, better quality and more innovation in services than the government;
- a smaller government will reduce costs to the taxpayer; and
- less regulation will provide a better environment for business, thus creating more jobs.

Those concerned about privatization suggest the following.

- Profits: The mandate to make a profit will endanger public safety and reduce services available to the general public.
- Costs: There will be increased costs to consumers.
- Transparency and Accountability: Private companies will lack transparency, adequate oversight and accountability.
- Corruption: There will be increased corruption between government and for-profit, private companies.
- National Defense: Privatizing sectors such as ports, utilities and defense can result in foreign control and will put the country at risk in the event of war.
- Inequality: The scale of privatized programs will result in chronic high unemployment, low wages and abusive labor practices, leading to growing inequality between the wealthy and poor.

#### REFERENCES:

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Capitalism and Freedom, Milton Friedman, University of Chicago Press, 1962.

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## LWWUS (continued)

### NATIONAL STUDY ON THE PRIVATIZATION OF GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

In a set of meetings similar to those of the Education Study of last September through November, we plan to participate in the second LWWUS study of the 2011-12 year. Contact: Debby Maio, [dmmaio@mac.com](mailto:dmmaio@mac.com)

**Privatization Study:** Identify the "parameters and policy issues to be considered in connection with proposals to transfer federal, state or local government services, assets and/or functions to the private sector. The study will review the stated goals and the community impact of such transfers, and identify strategies to ensure transparency, accountability and preservation of the common good."

### NATIONAL ADVOCACY ON VOTING RIGHTS AND ACCESS

At the national level, and in several affected states, the League of Women Voters has taken positions and actions to oppose ID requirements and reductions of voting days that appear to impede participation of citizens eligible to vote.

**League President Testifies Before House Judiciary Committee Forum on Voting Laws Changes:** On Monday, November 14, LWWUS President Elisabeth MacNamara was on Capitol Hill to present testimony to Congress on the effect of recent voting legislation passed by a number of states in 2011. (Her on-air testimony can be found on the national LWV website [lwv.org](http://lwv.org). Her statement began at about 30 minutes into the program.) Among the numerous media reports were those from the [Huffington Post](#), [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) and [Governing Magazine](#).

### EDUCATION FUND (LWWUS)

#### Elections: With New ID Laws in Place, What's Next?

How do we educate the public [on voter registration and how to cast a vote], without scaring them away? How do we monitor the implementation and impact? These were just two of the many questions discussed in an LWWUS video conference last Nov. 11. In that program, the Wisconsin League told of its polling place observation program, the LWVSC [So. Carolina] shared its voter education efforts, and the LWVMN [New Mexico] shared its new mini-documentary for educating the public on the barriers of voter photo ID. Partial funding for the video was provided by the LWVEF Public Advocacy for Voter Protection project.

### NATIONAL (LWWUS) BIENNIAL CONVENTION: WASHINGTON DC 8-12 JUNE 2012

See the LWWUS website at [LWV.org](http://LWV.org).

**UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR (LWSSMC) Evan Hughes, VOTER Editor, evanhughesphd@aol.com**

JANUARY		
26 Thurs	<b>New Early Start: 6:00pm</b>	<b>LEAGUE CO-SPONSORED FORUM</b> on the <b>Grand Boulevard Initiative</b> as it may apply in Menlo Park, as it is being used County-wide, and as it fits with SB375 for the Bay Area and California-wide. "Grand Boulevard / Menlo Park: Past, Present, Future" - Social Hall of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church, 700B Santa Cruz Ave., Menlo Park (above and behind ACE Hardware) Contact: Patty Boyle, 854-4046 or <a href="mailto:p.boyle@comcast.net">p.boyle@comcast.net</a> . (See Page 1, and, for immediate information on this forum, contact <a href="mailto:info@greenbelt.org">info@greenbelt.org</a> .)
FEBRUARY		
4 Sat	9am-2pm	<b>BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY</b> on "Housing and the Bay Area's Future" at First Unitarian Church in downtown Oakland, 685 14th Street, adjacent to Preservation Park. (See Page 5.)
6 Mon	7:00pm	<b>LWSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Dr., Menlo Park, 323-5358.
11 Mon	9:30-noon	<b>COUNTY LEAGUE DAY</b> on <b>Initiative &amp; Referendum Reform</b> at the Alpine Hills Tennis and Swimming Club in Portola Valley: 4139 Alpine Rd., 2 miles west (right) of the 280 (if southbound) on Alpine Rd. (on the left as you drive west [right] from the Alpine exit from the 280 [southbound]). (See Page 1 and Page 7.)
23 Thurs	2:30pm	<b>LWSSMC BOOK GROUP</b> (note new day, the 4th, not 3rd, Thurs.) Contact: Judy Orttung, 847-1779 or <a href="mailto:jorttung@comcast.net">jorttung@comcast.net</a> . (See Page 3.)
25 Sat	9am-3pm	<b>STATE LEAGUE LWVC—NO. CALIF. REGIONAL MEETING</b> on California's State Budget, the 2012 Elections, and the study on "Privatization of Government Services" in San Jose at the Martin Luther King Jr. Main Library, 150 E. San Fernando St. (at 4th, downtown), San Jose. (Page 5)
MARCH		
5 Mon	7:00pm	<b>LWSSMC BOARD MEETING</b> at Lucile Spurlock's, 856 Creek Dr., Menlo Park, 323-5358.

**SUPPORT OR MEMBERSHIP:**

Dues, \$75: \_\_\_\_\_ (This is not tax-deductible)

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Ed-Fund Contribution: \_\_\_\_\_ (This is tax-deductible, and please make a separate check payable to LWVSSMC Ed-Fund.)

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**To respond by mail, send this form to: LWV of South San Mateo County, 713 Santa Cruz Avenue, Suite 9, Menlo Park, CA 94025**



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