



THE VOTER

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY

October 2009

Serving the Citizens of Stanislaus County, California

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LWVSC POSITIONS on MODESTO SEWER EXTENSION BALLOT MEASURES

The League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County continues its interest in land use decisions, especially those involving potential growth into unincorporated areas. We support measures that protect farmland outside defined urban boundaries, protect the quality of our environment, provide development contiguous with existing development, and provide adequate funding for infrastructure.

We have studied the City of Modesto's Measures A, B, C, D, and E, sewer extension advisory measures, on the November 3 ballot. We recognize these areas were identified by the City Council because of their potential for economic development and job creation and that they are contiguous to areas already approved or developed. However, among our concerns is the fact that the City of Modesto in the past has not always followed proposed plans, to the detriment of the city. Also, there is an existing inventory of land already approved but not yet developed, as well as underutilized properties affected by the current economic downturn, which should be developed before more farmland. The City still has no farmland mitigation policy despite promises.

The League's positions are:

A – Kiernan Corridor: No position. With access to Highway 99, improvements to Kiernan Avenue and proximity to Kaiser's new hospital and other business parks, development of this area is well on its way. Our concerns, however, are that the proposal extends north of Kiernan, which otherwise could be a natural barrier or limit to the city's growth, includes prime farmland within the proposed area, would require rezoning hundreds of acres from Village Residential and precedes final determination of the route of the North County Corridor.

B – College West: The League opposes this measure. The Briggsmore/99 interchange is already a transportation nightmare. The Beckwith overpass and frontage road are inadequate to meet the demand. With residential development in the area, how can we be sure the intentions of this Council for business park development will be honored by future Councils? The area includes and is adjacent to prime farm land that should be protected. Annexing this area would open west of 99 to development.

C – North McHenry – The League supports this measure. This is an opportunity to “clean up” the city/county mix on north McHenry Avenue by bringing the already developed commercial area into the City of Modesto.

D – Tivoli North –The League opposes this measure. Annexation is premature. The area is adjacent to the already approved but undeveloped Tivoli neighborhood. Although it has poorer soil and offers opportunity for some commercial development, it is primarily a residential area. Traffic flow in the area is a concern as no infrastructure has been developed, and the route of the North County Corridor is yet to be determined.

E – Hetch-Hetchy – The League opposes this measure. This area was not included in the City of Modesto's initial proposal for annexation because it offers limited potential for economic development. Land owners petitioned for an advisory vote, citing the fact that the area is surrounded by current or future development. As with Measure D, it is primarily residential and annexation is premature.

The Local Action Committee

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Dear Members,

At the time you receive this message, we will be in the process of holding Candidate Forums, voter registration, and Finance Drive. So there is no great news or results to report.

In the League publication, "Forty Years of a Great Idea", celebrating the League of Women Voters Fortieth Birthday, I found some great quotes from our great leaders in League and thought you would appreciate them as much as I did.

We propose to get into the great parties and to work from the inside. We do not fear issues, and we do not fear the future. We'll not vote as women, but as American citizens, and we are unafraid,

Carrie Chapman Catt, 1919

If we are going to trail behind the Democratic and Republican parties about five years, and if our program is going to be about that much behind that of the dominant political parties, we might as well quit before we begin. If the League of Women Voters hasn't the vision to see what is coming and what ought to come, and be five years ahead of the political parties, I doubt if it is worth the trouble to go on.

Carrie Chapman Catt, 1920

The actual work of the League - the end for which organization supplies the means-is, first of all, training for citizenship.

Maud Wood Park, 1st National LWV President

Study without action is abortive.

Belle Sherwin, 2nd National LWV President

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Susan B. Anthony

(Written in 1875 by for a constitutional amendment, this is the exact wording of the 19th Amendment finally added to the Constitution 45 years later.)

Ellen Meyer, President



The League of Women Voters is where hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement. JOIN LWVSC where leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national levels.

LUNCH AND LEARN

October 27th Lunch and Learn

Michael Sullivan, CEO, Golden Valley Health Care

Health care—now there's a term you have heard recently. Please plan to come to the October Lunch & Learn Program. Our speaker will be Michael O. Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of the Golden Valley Health Centers. He will be speaking on the role of Community Health Care Centers in today's health care world. On September 1, 2009, the Stanislaus County Supervisors voted to reduce funding for health care in our County. According to an article in the Modesto Bee, more than 2,600 of the 6,000 to 7,000 people served by the county's Medically Indigent Adult program will be charged higher co-payments for dental and medical services starting October 1, and some won't be eligible at all.

In a recent guest editorial in the Bee, Mr. Sullivan wrote that Community Health Centers serve as primary points of access to high-quality health care, regardless of a person's insurance status or ability to pay. Community health centers are nonprofit, locally directed providers of primary and preventive health care, dental services, health education and related services to more than 18 million people in the nation. Community health centers were among the first to receive money from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (the stimulus), and this money is being used to provide care to more people as they lose their health insurance along with their jobs. Mr. Sullivan goes on to say that the stimulus funding was important at the time, but it isn't the cure. "The cure is health reform done right."

Please plan to come to this important presentation on October 27 at noon at Appetez.

*"Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."
~Oliver Wendell Holmes*

August Lunch and Learn

Steve Madison and Bill Zoslocki

Myth Busters - the folks who came to the August Lunch & Learn meeting were presented with a program from the Building Industry Association of Central California (BIACC) concerning land use in our area today. Steve Madison, Executive Vice President of the BIACC, and Bill Zoslocki, past president and owner of Bill Zoslocki Construction Co., Inc., gave a Power-point presentation to a large and interested group pointing out some of the myths surrounding growth issues in our area today.

One example was the assertion that farm revenues in Stanislaus County are at significant risk because of prime farm land loss. That is a myth because the facts, provided by the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner, show that the crop yield in the County in 1997 totaled \$1,316,942, 000, while in 2008, it was \$2,473,843,000 - an 88% increase. Another myth which the presentation "exploded" was that Stanislaus County is losing overall farm land to urbanization. Is there really less farm acreage today? According to the Stanislaus County Agricultural Commissioner again, in 1977, there were 795,000 acres being farmed while in 2008, there were 907,656 in farm use—an addition of 112,656 acres overall.

The presentation discussed the fact that Stanislaus County has fewer high school and college graduates; a higher unemployment rate and a lower median family income than the San Jose area, according to the U.S. Census Bureau data. Mr. Zoslocki said that we should learn from the mistakes San Jose has made and work together to diversify our economy to help mitigate these problems. A lively period of questions and answers and discussion followed. This program was timely, given the studies LWV is currently doing concerning the up-coming Measure M vote.

*Lee DeLaMare, Lunch and Learn Director
With Many Thanks to Myrtle Osner*

FINANCE DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

The 2009-2010 Finance Drive was launched on September 8 with the mailing of 400 letters to members, community supporters and local government officials. The finance drive provides our primary source of funding for our local education activities. We could not provide the level of service we are known for without these funds. You should have already received your letter in the mail; please give as generously as you are able, but remember even small amounts make a difference.

Many people go into making this drive successful. I want to give a big thanks to the Finance Committee: Lynn Kelso, Margie Lipsky, Joan Goldsmith and Seena Rhine for suggesting names, editing, stuffing envelopes, and going above and beyond duty to scramble to man the printers. A very special thanks goes to our Finance Advisors, who are always willing to add the personal touch which makes our drive more effective. This year's Finance Advisors are Paul Baxter, Pat Cole, Carole Davis, Kenni Friedman, Debbie Kleinfelder, Margie Lipsky, Larry Martin, Susan Mattos, Myrtle Osner, Mickey Peabody, Doris Scanlon, Margaret Sturtevant, Karen Tabacco, Lisa Mantarro-Moore and Tom Van Groningen. I also especially want to thank Lynn Kelso who graciously let us use her home for every committee meeting and always kept me supplied with coffee.

Watch for results of our drive in future issues. Together we can keep the League an active, vital voice in Stanislaus County.

Mary Giventer, Finance Drive Director

New Intern from Modesto Junior College

We are pleased to announce that we have a new intern from Modesto Junior College for this fall. Holly Craytor will be learning about LWV and attending events and assisting us with projects. Holly is a student of League member/Professor Steve Miller, who assisted in setting up this program. Welcome Holly, and Thanks!

DIVERSITY POLICY:

League of Women Voters of Stanislaus County in both its values and practices affirms its belief and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means that there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

Board Highlights

September 9, 2009

- Joan Goldsmith reviewed 2008-2009 financial records and found them to be in order. She praised Polly Klopfer, Lynn Kelso and Michelle McNeil for their work in maintaining accurate accounts.
- LWVSC and AAUW are co-sponsoring Dinner with Roy Wasden, Turlock's City Manager, November 5 in Turlock. Board members from Turlock are coordinating the event. Watch *Voter* and website for details.
- Membership: 122 renewals with two additional new members. Deadline for inclusion in the directory is September 30.
- Board approved consensus recommendations on Modesto sewer extension Measures A, B, C, D, and E on the November ballot. See article on page one for details.

Marie Bairey, Secretary

Welcome Our Newest Members

Mercedes Hart
Ruby Hennessey
Buda Kajer-Crain
Randy Moore

We look forward to seeing you at our events

I WANT TO ADD MY VOICE TO YOURS BY JOINING THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF STANISLAUS COUNTY!

Student Membership \$15 _____
Individual Membership \$60 _____
Household Membership \$90 _____

Please contact me with more information:

Name(s): _____
Address: _____

Phone (for directory): _____
E-mail: _____

MAIL TO
LWVSC
P.O. Box E
Modesto, CA 9535

LWV URGES COPYCAT ORG. TO END MIS-LEADING HEALTH CARE ADS

League of Women Voters Objects to Deceptive Advertising by "League of American Voters"

Washington, DC – In a hand-delivered letter, the League of Women Voters called on the "League of American Voters" (LAV) to "cease and desist" from using a name clearly designed to be confused with the League's in order to disseminate misleading information and block health care reform.

"The League of American Voters health care ad makes misleading statements in an inflammatory way," League of Women Voters President Mary G. Wilson stated in her letter to LAV Executive Director Bob Adams. "Not only does your ad distort the facts on health care reform, it does so using a name that is deceptively similar to the League of Women Voters," Wilson said.

"We are not convinced that this startup group is a credible organization with authority to speak on behalf of American voters," Wilson said. "They may have a legitimate-sounding name, but—until we know who is funding the ads—there is no reason to believe that they are anything other than another organization serving as a conduit for big-money attacks on health care reform."

"This is typical of the kinds of things we are seeing from the opponents of health care reform. Intentionally putting out bad information to mislead, confuse and scare Americans," Wilson charged.

"This copycat group appears to be entirely inaccessible to the public. We had to hand-deliver our letter because the group's website lists no email address or fax number," Wilson said, pointing out that the group's office address is shared with several lobbying groups who were unable to locate LAV management or staff.

"The League is releasing the text of this letter to set the record straight: The work of Mr. Adams' organization should in no way be confused with the League of Women Voters," Wilson added.

"The League of Women Voters of the United States has more than 150,000 members and supporters nationwide, and we are one of the most trusted non-partisan organizations in the U.S. Our members and the public rely on us to share information responsibly and accurately, because that is what we have done for almost 90 years," Wilson said.

"Make no mistake: The League of Women Voters believes quality, affordable health care should be available to all Americans," Wilson stated.

"The League of American Voters would best serve Americans by telling the truth in their ads. Our democracy depends on honest and open debate among real people, not misinformation from mysterious, inaccessible organizations that get money from unknown sources to create national TV spots in order to block needed health care reform," Wilson concluded.

From LWVUS Website

DINNER WITH WASDEN

As the League works to expand our services throughout the county, we are pleased to announce the launching of a new event. In partnership with the Turlock Branch of AAUW, the League is starting a meeting in Turlock similar to the familiar Lunch and Learn meetings. The first meeting will be Thursday, November 5th at 6 P.M. at Henry's Restaurant in Scandia Village on Golden Gate Blvd. The speaker will be Roy Wasden, City Manager of Turlock who will discuss current issues in Turlock and his vision of the city's future. The menu will include a selection of entrees with soup or salad. Cost will vary with the entrée but will be around \$20 or less.

This is an exciting new direction for both the League and AAUW. If successful we hope to have similar events in the future. I hope you can join us. If you have any questions call Mary Giventer (632-8996).

In Memory

It is with great sorrow that we say goodbye to a loyal supporter of League, Carol Christensen. Carol was a dedicated League member and was a very active member for years. Many members will remember working side by side with her at events, including a peaceful protest march at the Riverbank Amtrak Station to highlight our transportation position in the 1970's.

Moderator Training

I am happy to share that we have 3 new moderators for our forums. Mary Giventer, Marsha Waggoner, and Kate Weiner attended the September 15th training session at Marsha's lovely home. Also attending to prep for upcoming forums were moderators Diane Bartlett and Stella Beratlis. We were joined by Yami Valladolid from El Concilio who will be moderating a forum for their members and wanted to learn more about it. She thanked League profusely for our handbook, *Putting on a Candidates Forum the Right Way* and for including her in our training session.

Susan Novak 1st Vice President

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(Check Website for Updates)

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| Thursday, October 1 | 7:00-8:00 pm Candidate Forum, Turlock United School District
Walnut Elementary School, 4219 N. Walnut Road, Turlock |
| Monday, October 5 | 6:00-7:30 pm Candidate Forum, Riverbank Mayor
Community Center, 3600 Santa Fe Avenue, Riverbank |
| Wednesday, October 14 | 6:00 pm Board Meeting
League Office, 720 13th Street, Modesto |
| Thursday, October 15 | 5:00 pm Valley Futures Forum
Great Valley Center, 201 Needham Street, Modesto (\$10 fee at door) |
| Tuesday, October 27 | 12:00 Noon Lunch and Learn
Speaker: Michael O. Sullivan, CEO, Golden Valley Health Centers
Appetiz Restaurant, Roseburg Square. Modesto
\$11.00. For special dietary needs call one day ahead |
| Tuesday, November 3 | Election Day - VOTE! |
| Thursday, November 5 | 6:00 pm Dinner with Roy Wasden, Turlock CEO
Henry's Restaurant, Scandia Village
217 S. Golden State Boulevard, Turlock |