

The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Jinky Gardner February 2007 Editors: A. Kisch and J. Brandes

Who Votes in California?

The Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) published its report, California's Exclusive Electorate (available on the web at http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=705), in September 2006. In a nutshell, the researchers found:

"California's electorate does not reflect the size, the growth, or the diversity of California's population. Today, eight in 10 adults are eligible to vote but just 56 percent are registered, less than half (43%) belong to one of the major parties, and only 35 percent of adults can be expected to vote in the November [2006 general] election. Voter registration has grown at a slower rate than the population. As a result, 12 million of the state's 27.7 million adults are not registered to vote. Moreover, although the state has become increasingly diverse, the adults who frequently vote are predominantly white, age 45 and older, and relatively affluent. In contrast, nonvoters (those who are not registered to vote) are mostly nonwhite, younger, and less affluent than frequent (or "likely") voters."

The California Secretary of State's office released the following numbers for eligible and registered voters on October 26, 2006. The number of actual voters was released on December 4, 2006. The estimated number of Californians 18 years old and older is from the U.S. Census Bureau.

On November 7, 2006			
Estimated Californians 18+	25,623,626		
Californians eligible to vote	22,652,190	88.4% of adults	
Number registered	15,837,108	69.9% of those eligible	61.8% of adults
Number voting	8,897,376	39.3% of those eligible	56.2% of those registered

Since the PPIC projections were based on a survey done in May 2006, and on Department of Finance population reports, they differ somewhat from the numbers reported in the table above. Despite the differences, the PPIC demographic analysis of the electorate intrigued me. I wanted to find out if the turnout on November 7 confirmed it.

(continued. on page 4)

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR! BAY AREA DAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 27, 2007 10 AM – 1:30 PM

LWVBAE members will get a larger look at housing needs and "smart growth" concepts when the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area (LWVBA) presents its annual Bay Area Day on Saturday, January 27, 2007. The keynote speaker will be John King, Urban Design writer at the San Francisco Chronicle, who will speak on "Successful Smart Growth Design for the Bay Area."

Following Mr. King's talk will be panel discussions on topics such as:

- The Bay Area League's "Focusing Our Vision" project;
- · Redefining Regional 'Smart Growth' Criteria;
- New Round of Regional Housing Needs Allocations and Housing Element Updates.

Location: Oak Room, San Mateo City Library at 55 West Third Ave., San Mateo. Registration and refreshments at 10 am; program 10:30 am to 1:30 pm.

Anyone interested in attending Bay Area Day 2007 should contact *Luanne Rogers*, LWVBAE Program VP, at the LWVBAE office (510) 843-8824; Luanne will provide further information and will coordinate carpooling. The program costs \$10 per person, payable at the door.

Jane Brandes VOTER Co-Editor

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Eco-Business is the topic on Monday, February 12, 2007, the next meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee. In 1994 the Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution calling on the city to develop and support an "environmental economy". Currently there are about 150 businesses that are considered "Sustainable".

We will learn about the rigorous process that our businesses go through to ensure that they meet the highest environmental standards. These efforts have ensured that tons of waste are diverted from landfills, fewer dangerous chemicals are drained into the Bay and thousands of dollars are saved by energy and water conservation measures.

The meeting will be at 1340 Arch St. (corner of Rose) from 7:30-9:00 pm.

Carol Stone Environmental Concerns

The VOTER

Published monthly except January, June & August by

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The VOTER is free to members, \$10/year for non-members. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website: http://lwvbae.org/.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

BROWN BAG LUNCHEONS

On Tuesday, February 6, from 12-2 pm, monthly Brown Bag Luncheons resume at the Albany Library's Edith Stone Room (Masonic & Marin Avenues). This month:

Disaster Preparedness: Where are we and what is next? Speakers:

Sandy Weeks, Albany Fire Department Jim Polk, Berkeley Fire Department Stephen L. Cutright, Emeryville Fire Chief

Please bring your lunch and your thirst for information. Beverages will be provided.

On March 6, our topic will be: The Health Insurance Crisis - Causes and Cures

Questions? Phone Luanne Rogers, Program Vice President, at 559-1006.

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MARION T. SHERK

IN MEMORIAM

The League is sorry to report the late September death of Marion T. Sherk. Many League members may remember her better as Marion Luten because her husband, Dan Luten, joined at about the same time as she, in 1987.

Marion took League work seriously, immediately joining committees and attending unit meetings. She first served on the board of directors as Assistant Treasurer. Subsequently, she was elected Action Vice President, then Treasurer for three terms, and finally Administration Vice President for three terms. The board held its monthly meetings in the Luten home for six years beginning in 1988. Additionally, she served on the Budget Committee, and was an office volunteer as long as she was able.

Her most important contribution to the League was undoubtedly her work in setting up the LWVB Foundation as a non-profit approved by the State of California. *Mim Hawley*, the Foundation's current Treasurer, uses superlatives when describing Marion's assembling the necessary documents for submission to the State; for instance, writing the articles of incorporation. Before this, our League could accept donations for educational purposes but had to send the funds to the State League for holding; there the release of the funds to our League was for projects approved by the State League.

Marion graduated from Smith College with a degree in Physics during World War II. She was then hired by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was assigned to work on the team that developed radar.

After the war, Marion returned to her native Indianapolis, Indiana. There she married another physicist. They moved to California and had three daughters; one of whom, Alice Feller, lives in Berkeley.

Marion met her second husband Dan while serving as comptroller of David Brower's Friends of the Earth. Dan died in January 2003.

A memorial service for Marion has been held.

This valued League member will be greatly missed, and we extend our sincerest sympathy to her family.

> Evelyn Light VOTER Proofreader

ESTATE PLANNING

The Boards of the League of Women Voters, Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and the Berkeley League of Women Voters Foundation, welcome the inclusion of the League in your estate planning.

The greater our funding, the more we can do. Your gift of continued financial support will live on in the work of the League beyond your lifetime.

Thank you for considering the work of the League when planning your civic legacy.

OFFICE VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Jane Barrett, Administration VP, will conduct a training workshop for those wanting to volunteer at least 2-3 hours per month in the League office. The session will be held on Thursday, March 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the office. If you want to attend, PLEASE CALL Jane at 845-8055.

HELP SET MIDDLE SCHOOLERS ON THE COLLEGE PATH

As we did last spring, our League will work to bring Student Ambassadors from Berkeley City College to talk to graduating middle school students and their parents about how to prepare for life after high school.

In early March, City College Student Ambassadors will meet with all 8th graders at Willard and King middle schools in Berkeley, and with the 8th graders in Emery Unified as well.

If you would like to know more, or want to volunteer to help run the March parents' meeting, please call *Helene Lecar*, 549-9719.

NEW MEMBERS

OUR WARMEST WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Samuela Evans Merle Fajans Annette Goldberg Pamalee Hamilton Theodora Hodges K. McElhney Jeannie Rucker Maryly Snow Karen Weil

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

We have an exciting opportunity. During the past several years our League has received donations in excess of what we've needed to cover our annual budgets. The reserve we've built is larger than it needs to be to cover lean years. So, let's spend some of this money in ways that would be both wise and dynamic! In other words, let's keep a prudent reserve, but get our face out to the public and make more of a difference in our communities on issues that we have studied, taken positions on, and truly care about.

The Board discussed this situation at our December meeting. Some of the suggestions advanced were:

- move to a ground floor office
- get a new computer with new software
- increase our paid staff time
- run a civics ed project in the schools
- participate in a coalition to pass single-payer health care legislation

These ideas in no way exhaust the possibilities. We on the Board hope that you'll come up with more great ideas to add to this list. We want to hear from you. Think of this as mid year "advice to the Board". We'll add your ideas to the list, and then pass it to the budget committee when it begins work later this month. If you have an idea, phone me at 548-5292, or email me at jinkybsg@comcast.net. Or, you may call the office and leave your idea(s) with the desk volunteer. If leaving a voice mail message, be sure to include your name. 2007 promises to be an exciting year!

Jinky Gardner President

LWVC PROGRAM PLANNING

In preparation for the California State League Convention in May, we need to review the State Program elements in order to help direct emphasis for the next 2 years. The Santa Clara County League is proposing making education a priority. There are many other positions to review as well.

We have set Thursday, February 8, 7-9 pm, at the office for our evaluation. We will provide dessert and hot drinks to aid in your deliberations.

Questions? Call 559-1006.

Luanne Rogers Program Vice President

WHO VOTES IN CALIFORNIA?

(continued from page 1)

Luckily, CNN published an exit poll of 2,705 Californians who voted in our most recent gubernatorial contest. It included the demographic information I sought, and is available via the web link shown in the sources section beneath the table on page 5. I've assembled its results, the PPIC data from a **Just the Facts** flyer published in August 2006, and demographic information about the population of California as a whole in the table.

With some confidence we can now assert that when compared with California's overall population, the electorate is:

- Whiter (47% of the population is white, compared with 68% of voters in the most recent election)
- Older (nearly 2/3 of the electorate on November 7 was 45 or older)
- Richer (34% of the state's population earns \$75,000 or more per year, while 48% of those voting on November 7 earn in this range)
- Better educated (30% of the state's population holds college degrees, compared with 52% of those who voted on November 7)

What do numbers like these mean for the state? California's Exclusive Electorate says on page 17:

"What are the consequences of uneven participation rates and low voter turnout? First, the fact that a relatively small group of voters is making the decisions about elected representatives and public policy can raise serious questions about the legitimacy of the democratic system. Next, because the haves in society are the frequent voters, and so many of the have-nots are not even registering to vote, the voting preferences at the ballot box do not reflect the broad interests of all adults. Last, likely voters and nonvoters have very different perspectives on issues such as the role of government, limits on government, ratings of elected representatives, and ballot choices. California thus faces the prospect of an electorate making policy choices that neglect the realities and problems facing large segments of society."

In this light, the work of the League takes on even more importance. Please make time to read the PPIC report.

Bill Chapman Voter Guest Editor

Who Votes in California?

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		PPIC 8/06 % Likely Voters	% of CA population	% in CNN Exit Poll	
Race		_			
	White	72	47	68	
	Latino	14	32	19	
	Black	6	6	5	
	Asian	5	11	6	
	Other	3	4	3	
Age					
	18-34	18	33	13	(18-29)
	35-54	43	40	22	(30-44)
	55+	39	27	64	(45+)
Income					
	under \$40K	28	47	32	(under \$50K)
					(\$50-
	40-79K	37	19	20	\$75K)
	80K+	35	34	48	(\$75K+)
Education					
	no college	16	42	17	
	some college	31	29	31	
	college grad.	53	30	52	
Nativity					
	US born	88	73	85	
	Immigrant		27		
	citizen	12	12	15	
	non-citizen		15		
Housing					
	Owner	77	58	n/a	
	Renter	23	42	n/a	
Gender					
	Female	50	50	51	
	Male	50	50	49	
Party			registered		
	Democratic	43	43	40	
	Republican	36	34	35	
	Independent	16	19	25	
	Other	5	4		

Sources

CNN http://www.cnn.com/ELECTION/2006/pages/results/states/CA/G/00/epolls.0.html

PPIC http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_LikelyVotersJTF.pdf

California population statistics are from two sources

The US Census Bureau's American Factfinder

http://factfinder.census.gov/

The California Statistical Abstract, 2005

http://www.dof.ca.gov/HTML/FS_DATA/STAT-ABS/Statistical_Abstract.asp

LWVBAE Financial Report 2005-2006

		Actual	Budget	Remainder
Income				
	Dues	18,458	20,000	1,542
	Contributions	6,952	8,300	1,348
	LWVB Foundation	7,656	12,000	4,344
	Contract Services	6,035	2,000	(4,035)
	Meetings	685	*	(685)
	Fundraising	40.000	4= 000	(4.000)
	Community Lunch	16,262	15,000	(1,262)
	Scrip	3,008	4,200	1,192
	Product Sales	826	100	(726)
	Dividends: Money Market	195	100	(95)
	Total Income	60,077	61,700	1,623
Expenses	.			
	Election Services	2,099	3,000	901
	Program	673	1,400	727
	Action	143	400	257
	Administration	23,599	24,600	1,001
	Voter	4,475	4,000	(475)
	Other Publications	100	400	300
	Per Member Payments	15,912	15,000	(912)
	Conventions	4,572	4,000	(572)
	Development & Outreach			
	Community Lunch	7,868	8,000	132
	Finance Drive	241	500	259
	Membership	233	300	67
	Product Sales & Miscellaneo		100	(122)
	Total Expenses	60,137	61,700	1,563
Net Ordin	ary Income	(60)		
Other Inco	ome			
	Gain on Investments	16,529		
Net Incon	ne	16,469		
	Assets			
	Current Assets			
		Checking/Savings	25,263	
		Other Current Assets	<u>119,267</u>	
	Total Current Asse	ets	144,530	
		Other Assets	<u>1,451</u>	
	Total Assets		145,981	
	Liabilities and Equity			
	Equity Equity		145,982	
	Total Liabilities and Equity		145,982	
	Total Elabilities and Equity		170,502	*new line item

Prepared by *Eloise Bodine*, Treasurer

League of Women Voters of Berkeley Foundation Activities and Assets FY 2005-06

Receipts/Ir	ncome		1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Y-T-D
Contributi	ions, Unrestricted		422	2,316	2,322	195	<u>5,255</u>
	Restricted (Bansner Fund)		1,100	1,165	0	460	2,725
	(Helping Kids Grai	nts)	·	,	1,500	2,270	3,770
Sales (Or	al History)	,	25	0	15	0	40
Transfer f	from Mutual Funds					3,500	<u>3,500</u>
Adjustme	ent from LWVBAE* *Overpaymen	nt				425	425
		Totals	1,547	3,481	3,837	6,850	<u>15,715</u>
	Totals without restricted funds		447	2,316	2,337	4,120	9220
Disbursem	ents/Expenses						
	PMP Grants: CA, US		671	1,163	648	179	<u>2,661</u>
	Rent		0	996	0	1,009	2,005
	Sec'y of State, Ins. & misc.		0	98	0	20	<u>118</u>
	Oral History		439	118	0	0	<u>557</u>
	LWVBAE Voter, Ann. Meeting		189	781	0	759	<u>1,729</u>
	LWVBAE Administrative costs		85	1,358	462	674	<u>2,579</u>
	Election Services, publications		451	170	54	1,595	<u>2,270</u>
	Equipment maintenance		0	0	0		<u>0</u>
	Bank Charges and Adjustments*		0	0	252	12	<u>264</u>
	Restricted Fund Payments		0	0	1,450	4,200	<u>5,650</u>
		Totals	1,835	4,684	2,866	8,448	17,833
	Totals without restricted funds		1,835	4,684	1,416	4,248	<u>12,183</u>
	Surplus/(Deficit)		-288	-843	-971	-1,598	<u>1,594</u>
	S/D without restricted funds		-1,388	-2,368	921	-128	<u>-2,963</u>
				Fiscal Yea	ar 2005-20	006	
Assets			1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	
Addition	Checking Account	Money	4,300	5,426	5,027	5,263	
	Amer.Cent. Prime Money Mkt**	Mkt **	6,199	6,255	6,317	2,852	
	Amer. Cent. Growth/Income		20,339	20,380	20,985	20,955	
	Amer. Cent Balanced **		14,924	15,062	15,331	15,258	
	TOTAL ASSETS		45,762	47,123	47,660	44,328	

^{*3}rd quarter adjustments: 1) bank fee for new deposit books and 2) contribution erroneously credited to foundation

^{**} Transferred \$6,000 from Balanced Fund to Prime Money Market in 1st quarter Miriam Hawley, LWVB Foundation Treasurer

WINTER DRIVE DONORS

TO THE GENERAL FUND

Robert Arnold

Joyce Baldwin

Ellen W. Barth

Regina Beatus

Janice Gulley Blumenkrantz

Jody Bush

Gretchen Carlson

Suzanne Chun

Dwight Collins

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Yvonne Koshland

Wulf and Erika Kunkel

Jane Ann Lamph

Dorothy Lindheim

Babette Maccoby

Linda Rose Maio

Wendy Markel

Mountain Hard Wear

Julie Nachtwey

on behalf of Sonja Hillgren-Downs

Allie Norton

Therese Pipe

Patricia Pope

Luanne Rogers

Weldon and Jeanie Rucker

Frances Townes

Lassie Ulman

in memory of Eva Brecher

Andrea Washburn

Masako Yamada

TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

Diane Akers

Jean M. Allen

Robert Arnold

Gilbert Bendix

Joseph Bilota

Phyllis Bischof

Eloise Bodine

Helen B. Canin

Stephanie Friedman

Joan Glassey

Penelope Hanan - Dahman

Adeline Kahn

Ann Kamoe

in memory of Eva Brecher

Jane Ann Lamph

Evelyn Light

in memory of Marion Sherk

Babette Maccoby

in memory of Eva Brecher

Julie Nachtwey

on behalf of Sonja Hillren-Downs

Patricia Pope

Wilma Rader

Maryrose Black Ryan

Vivian Scharlack

Marion H. Shapiro

Helene Strauss

Karen Weil

Otis and Teresa Wong

Evelyn and Gordon Wozniak

Many thanks for remembering your League.
Louetta Erlin
Donations Secretary

SI SE PUEDE - DOLORES HUERTA TO SPEAK AT LWVC CONVENTION 2007



Dolores Huerta
Photo courtesy of Angela Torres

[Editor's note: Our League is entitled to send several delegates to the upcoming convention. If you're interested in becoming one of them, phone or e-mail *Jinky Gardner* (548-5292, <u>jinkybsg@comcast.net</u>) for additional information.]

Dolores Huerta, activist and co-founder with César Chávez of the United Farm Workers, will be the keynote speaker at Rally in the Valley, the LWVC Convention 2007, May 18-20, in Bakersfield.

She currently heads the Dolores Huerta Foundation, whose mission is to establish Communities of Conscience focusing on community organizing and leadership training in low-income, under-represented communities with an emphasis on women and youth.

Dolores funded this nonprofit with a 1991 \$825,000 out-of-court settlement after San Francisco police clubbed her during a peaceful demonstration in 1988 outside a fundraiser for George H. W. Bush. She was passing out literature on the danger of pesticides for farm workers. Dolores' internal injuries included six broken ribs and a spleen so damaged as to require surgical removal.

Dolores is best known for her activism on behalf of farm workers, especially during the great grape boycott of the late 1960s, which led to contracts between the growers and the UFW and eventually to the UFW's right to collective bargaining.

But that is only part of her story.

Of particular interest to Leaguers is Dolores' dedication to promoting women to leadership roles. Although she had very early made bringing women into the UFW a personal project, she came to the women's movement late, principally through Gloria Steinem. Dolores soon realized that opponents of the farm workers were the same adversaries of the women's movement. Dolores was an early member of NOW and one of the founders of the Feminist Majority Foundation. She has spoken at rallies and marched on behalf of the women's movement.

As an advocate for farm workers rights, Dolores has been arrested twenty-four times for non-violent peaceful union activities. In 1984, the California state senate bestowed upon her the Outstanding Labor Leader Award. In 1993, Dolores was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame. That same year she received the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty Award, the Eugene V. Debs Foundation Outstanding American Award, and the Ellis Island Medal of Freedom Award. She is also the recipient of the Consumers' Union Trumpeter's Award. In 1998, she was one of the three Ms. Magazine's "Women of the Year" and the Ladies Home Journal's "100 Most Important Women of the 20th Century." In 1998, Dolores received the Eleanor Roosevelt Award from President Clinton. On December 8, 2002, she received the Nation/Puffin Award for creative citizenship.

Since Dolores Huerta has long been a beloved icon, as well as a focus of hostility, for Kern County residents, the LWVB, host League for Convention 2007, is honored and delighted to welcome this tiny dynamo. Convention participants will find her passionate, persistent and persuasive.



LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville 1414 University Ave., Suite D Berkeley, CA 94702-1509 Non-Profit Org. U.S. POSTAGE PAID Berkeley, CA Permit No. 29

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

IT'S EASY TO JOIN The LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip this
coupon and mail it with your
check for \$65 Annual Dues made out to:
LWVBAE

1414 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE D
BERKELEY, CA 94702-1509

Name:	
Address:	
Tel. Day:	Eve:
FAX:	E-mail:

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels:

LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National.

Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible.

Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible, to extent allowed by law.

JANUARY 27 Sat. 10 am-1:30 pm	Bay Area Day, San Mateo (see p. 2)	L. Rogers, 843-8824
FEBRUARY 1 Thurs. 7-9 pm 2 Fri. 5 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE office Deadline for March VOTER	J. Gardner, 548-5292 A. Kisch, 985-0651
6 Tue. 12-2 pm 8 Thurs. 7-9 pm	Brown Bag Luncheon Series Albany Library's Edith Stone Room LWVC Program Planning,	L. Rogers, 559-1006 L. Rogers, 559-1006
12 Mon. 7:30-9 pm	LWVBAĔ Office Environmental Concerns,	C. Stone, 549-0959
14 Wed. 19 Mon.	1340 Arch St. (Horst Bansner's house) 87 th Anniversary of the Founding of Presidents' Day - LWVBAE office clos	THE LWVUS
20 Tues. 7:30-9:30 pm 22 THURS.7:30 pm	Civics Action Action Committee, 1419 Grant (Phoebe Watts' house)	B. Chapman, 527-0827 H. Lecar, 549-9719
March	(
1 Thurs. 6-7 pm	Office Volunteer Training LWVBAE office	<i>J. Barrett</i> , 845-8055
1 Thurs. 7-9 pm 2 Fri. 5 pm 6 Tue. 12-2 pm	Board Meeting, LWVBAE office Deadline for April Voter Brown Bag Luncheon Series	J. Gardner, 548-5292 A. Kisch, 985-0651
12 Mon. 7:30-9 pm	Albany Library's Edith Stone Room Environmental Concerns, 1340 Arch St. (Horst Bansner's house)	L. Rogers, 559-1006 C. Stone, 549-0959
20 Tues. 7:30-9:30 pm 22 THURS.7:30 pm		B. Chapman, 527-0827 H. Lecar, 549-9719
MAY 3 Thurs. 7-9 pm 18-20 Fri-Sun	Board Meeting, LWVBAE office LWVC Convention in Bakersfield	J. Gardner, 548-5292 J. Gardner, 548-5292