



# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

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President: Jinky Gardner

October 2006

Editors: A. Kisch and J. Brandes

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## CIVICS ACTION COMMITTEE BEGINS WORK

After the adoption of our League's Civics Education position at the May 2006 Annual meeting, the Civics Study Committee reformed as a Civics Action Committee.

Co-chaired by *Cathy Lynch* and *Bill Chapman*, the committee began work this summer to find ways to support the teaching and improvement of Civics education in the Berkeley, Albany and Emery school districts. Our first effort was to identify and reach out to other organizations that might be interested in partnering with us. As I write this, members of the committee are making contact with local Boy Scouts, the Alameda County Office of Education, school and public librarians, and the Peralta College District to explore the feasibility of entering joint projects with them.

We are also ramping up to support teachers and schools wanting to use this fall's election as a "teaching moment" to engage students. We plan to distribute Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guides, provide speakers on ballot measures in local classrooms, and provide Mock Election support for interested teachers.

We've also begun the work of developing a section of our league web site for all teachers, students, administrators, parents and citizens interested in effective Civics education. Its home page is <http://lwvbae.org/civics.htm>. From there you'll find links to:

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- Learning resources developed by teachers, for teachers  
([http://www.lwvbae.org/civ\\_resources.htm](http://www.lwvbae.org/civ_resources.htm))
- Newspaper articles about civics instruction  
([http://www.lwvbae.org/civ\\_reading.htm](http://www.lwvbae.org/civ_reading.htm))
- Research on the quality of civics education in the U.S.  
([http://www.lwvbae.org/civ\\_research.htm](http://www.lwvbae.org/civ_research.htm))
- Information about Standards  
([http://www.lwvbae.org/civ\\_standards.htm](http://www.lwvbae.org/civ_standards.htm)), and
- Information about Testing  
([http://www.lwvbae.org/civ\\_tests.htm](http://www.lwvbae.org/civ_tests.htm))

Sometime soon, we hope to add a section on how to develop thinking skills using Civics material.

(continued on p. 2)

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Hey, this job of being your President has great perks! Last Friday I got to be one of the camera persons while we filmed candidate forums for the Berkeley races. I'd never done it before, but with a little training there I was, panning left, panning right, and zooming in to get close-ups. The hardest part was remembering that I had to listen to the directors' instructions coming through my headset and NOT what the candidates were saying. I'll have to catch that part when they are broadcast.

If you haven't already seen any of the forums, check 'em out for yourself -- they are being broadcast from now until the November election. The forums air on Berkeley's cable Channel 33 and cover the races for the Mayor of Berkeley, Berkeley School Board and City Council Districts 1, 4, 7 & 8. These programs were produced at Berkeley Community Media by our own League video crew. Cablecast times can be found on the LWVBAE website and on the BCM website at [www.betv.org](http://www.betv.org) on the Channel 33 link.

Albany is planning a couple of live forums which will be moderated by the League. The September 30 forum will cover the City Council candidates, and the October 7 forum will cover the School Board. Both forums are to take place in the Albany Council Chambers from 10 a.m. to noon.

As we all know, election season is a very busy time of year for all of us in the League, so I'll say no more for now. Make sure all your friends and family are registered to vote and are informed on the issues. Let's get out there!

*Jinky Gardner, President*

## NEW MEMBERS

OUR WARMEST WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

**Rayna Cohen**

**Barbara Dales**

**Sophie Hahn**

**Barbara Marienthal**

**Wendy Markel**

**Mary Montali**

**Ellen Eliz Pillsbury**

**Lizbeth Stevenson**

## COME TO THE UNIT MEETING TO HEAR STUDY REPORT ABOUT COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS OCTOBER 5, 5:30 PM

A "unit" meeting, to which the entire LWVBAE membership is invited, will be held on Thursday, October 5, from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm at the League office.

The topic concerns the County Superintendent of Schools. The issue is: would the Superintendent be more effective and accountable to the public if the position were changed from an elected one to an appointed one? Two years ago the Alameda County Council of Leagues of Women Voters undertook to do a study on this. Representatives from each of the County's seven Leagues have been examining this question, and their report and findings have now been published.

Each League will have a meeting of the membership to hear the study and to reach consensus on several questions. The results will be reported to the LWVBAE Board and then forwarded to the Alameda County Council of Leagues, forming the basis for a possible new position on the issue.

Please come and hear a summary of the study, then help us reach consensus. An article describing the study and laying out the consensus questions can be found on page 3 of this issue of the VOTER.

We look forward to seeing you at the "unit" meeting on October 5.

*Sherry Smith*

ACC Study Committee Member

### Civics Action Committee (continued from p. 1)

Finally, we'll soon begin exploring the possibility of hosting periodic "Civics Media Nights". We envision these as opportunities for interested people to gather and see how various audio and video materials can be used to liven up classrooms and draw students into educational experiences. If this sounds like something that might be of interest, please contact *Bill Chapman* (527-0827 or [bill@classroomtools.com](mailto:bill@classroomtools.com)). I'll add you to the list of people to notify when we begin scheduling gatherings.

*Bill Chapman*

Civics Action Committee Co-Chair

## LWV ALAMEDA COUNTY COUNCIL SUPERINTENDENT STUDY READY FOR LOCAL LEAGUE REVIEW

In December 2004, the LWVACC authorized a restudy of its 1996 position on the Alameda County Office of Education and the Alameda County Board of Education. The restudy was based on the LWVC position, entitled Intergovernmental Relationship which states: "Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public."

A study committee was appointed with a representative of each of the seven Leagues in Alameda County and it has met monthly since its inception. The committee focused on "The Efficacy of Elected vs. Appointed County Superintendent of Schools." This issue came up during the original 1996 study, but was not included in the final position.

In 53 of the 58 counties in the State of California, both the County Board of Education and the County Superintendent are elected. The five counties with appointed Superintendents are: Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Ventura.

County Boards of Education, under Education Code provisions, are responsible for: setting the superintendent's salary; approving the county budget; hearing appeals on expulsions and suspensions from districts; and acting as a school board for the Juvenile Court School and other community day schools operated by the county. When a County Superintendent is elected, the County Board does not have the authority to evaluate the elected superintendent's performance, establish work goals, or change the budget, unless both parties agree to such an arrangement.

County Superintendents are responsible for: hiring and firing of staff members; developing and presenting the county budget; operating the Juvenile Court and other county schools; ensuring the fiscal viability of the school districts in the county; and providing other services to districts if mandated or needed. Recently, County Offices have been given additional responsibilities such as reviewing and monitoring school districts under provisions of the Williams lawsuit settlement.

A team of two members from the LWVACC study committee are prepared to assist local Leagues in studying this issue and reach consensus on questions listed below. The committee will then compile the results of those meetings and prepare an updated position which local Leagues can present at their next Program Planning meeting. Questions? Contact Eleanor Parker, [eliparker@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eliparker@sbcglobal.net), or Lynn Groh, [lynnandjimgroh@earthlink.net](mailto:lynnandjimgroh@earthlink.net), who co-chair the committee.

### CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT STUDY UPDATE

1. Which method – elected or appointed County Superintendent of Schools (CSS) – would improve the effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority between the County Superintendent and the County Board of Education? Why?
2. Which method – elected or appointed CSS – would improve accountability to the public? To the County Board?
3. Which method is a less expensive way to implement?
4. How would an appointed CSS affect the responsibilities and authority of the County Board of Education and would that be positive or negative?
5. Should the results of this study be used to support a statewide change in the method of selecting a CSS? Please explain.

*Sherry Smith*

**State and Local PROS and CONS  
will be available at the LWBVAE  
Office during the first week in  
October.**

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**Speakers' Bureau members can  
speak to groups about the pros and  
cons of ballot measures. For  
information, call *Betty Hicks* at  
(510) 849-2499.**

# ANNUAL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON ■ AUGUST 24, 2006



**TOP LEFT:** SHERRY SMITH; CHRISTOPHER EDLEY, JR.; ELSA TRANTER. **TOP RIGHT:** GUEST; FRANCES TOWNES; DOROTHY DOUDNA. **MIDDLE LEFT:** PAT POPE; BARBARA NELSON; PAT WADLEIGH. **MIDDLE RIGHT:** LUANNE ROGERS. **BOTTOM LEFT:** NANCY BICKEL; LOIS BRUBECK. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** GLENDA HUMISTON; CARYL HART; SYLVIA MCLAUGHLIN; CAROL STONE.



## NOT ALL BLACK AND WHITE

In his talk at the LWVBAE Annual Community Luncheon on August 24, Christopher Edley, Jr., Dean and Professor of Law at Boalt Hall School of Law at U. of California, Berkeley, shared his expertise in politics and law as they relate to quality K-12 education and civil rights. Dean Edley discussed three challenges:

- **How to balance a national aspiration for progress in educational opportunities and equity for all versus states rights, local control, unfunded mandates.** Local control can produce local satisfaction: surveys in Boston show that 75% of the public thinks schools are poor, but 80% of parents think their own children's school is okay. Yet members of the 15,000 local school boards in the U.S. are not all versed in modern science and educational theories and policies.

- **The U.S. public has Civil Rights fatigue.** There is no broad consensus that widespread inequality and discrimination exists. School boards, city councils and state legislatures fight over limited resources and sometimes address issues of poverty and class status, but they do not address race. Overcoming the tendency to prefer people like oneself requires relentless teaching of the public by our leaders.

- **Legislation and regulation require broader responsibilities to schools and students.** The "No Child Left Behind" law says the disparity in our schools is not acceptable. But it is left to local school districts to figure out how to solve the problems, and left to states to figure out how to pay for the solutions. Congress is reluctant to enforce accountability of officials for disparity of educational achievements of schools; only the students are held accountable, by diploma denial. Schools alone cannot become the safety net when families and society fail. For example, to overcome undiagnosed vision problems which hamper students, Dean Edley suggested that local schools coordinate with local public health agencies and solve the problems together.

The public should hold officials responsible for results. But political accountability depends on the willingness of the public to understand the challenges and to recognize when politicians spout hogwash. The need for the League of Women Voters is as great as ever!

In 1996 Christopher Edley, Jr. published an extensive analysis of the intricate legal, moral and policy questions presented by affirmative action in "Not All Black and White: Affirmative Action and American Values."

*Ginette Polak*

## PARENTAL NOTIFICATION BACK AGAIN ON NOVEMBER BALLOT

In November 2005 California voters defeated Proposition 73, the attempt to force minors to have their parents notified when they sought medical attention for their pregnancy. A similar measure, Proposition 85, has qualified to be on the ballot in November 2006. The initiative is titled the "Parents' Right to Know and Child Protection Initiative." The League of Women Voters of California opposes this measure as we did Proposition 73 last year.

The League firmly believes that Parental Notification neither alters nor improves communication between teenagers and their parents. As we have stated before, most teens will turn to their parents for guidance. However, if the young woman is not able to approach her parent for advice with respect to a pregnancy, she must have the option to seek help elsewhere – from someone with whom she feels comfortable.

The League believes that teenagers are at severe health risk if they live in a dangerous home and must therefore delay receiving medical care. In the event of a pregnancy, Proposition 85 would require that either the parents be notified or the teenager appear before a judge to obtain a waiver of parental notification. This restrictive and potentially harmful policy would subject already vulnerable teenagers to additional emotional pressure at a turbulent time in their lives and would, moreover, seriously exacerbate the risk to their health.

The campaign for Real Teen Safety has documented that when laws make teenagers choose between talking to parents and having illegal and unsafe abortions, some will delay critical medical care and/or turn to self-induced or illegal back-alley abortions; some may even consider suicide. A law cannot compel young women to consult their parents when confronted with difficult decisions.

*Charlotte Lichterman*

## LWVBAE SUPPORTS TWO LOCAL MEASURES ON THE BERKELEY BALLOT

At September's Board meeting, LWVBAE voted to support two of the nine local measures that will appear on the November ballot. For most of the others, we have no position to justify support or opposition. More details on all of these measures is available in our local Pros and Cons.

We support:

**Measure A: Berkeley Renewing Berkeley Schools Excellence Project (BSEP)** for another six years. The League is an official signatory rebutting opposition arguments to the measure.

**Measure G: Berkeley Greenhouse Gas Emissions Advisory.** Even though the goal of an 80 percent reduction in emissions seems highly unlikely by 2050, and not under the control of city government by itself, members felt it was a step in the right direction and supported the goal of a 10 percent reduction by 2008, which is also in the measure.

The other measures on the ballot, on which the Board voted to refrain from taking an official position are:

**Measure C:** Albany, Bond for Upgrading the Fire Station

**Measure D:** Albany, legalizing medical marijuana

**Measure E:** Berkeley Rent Stabilization Charter Amendment

**Measure F:** Berkeley Waterfront Plan to include Gilman Playing Fields

**Measure H:** Impeach the President and Vice-President of the United States

**Measure I:** To Increase the rate of converting existing housing to condominiums

**Measure J:** Landmark Preservation Ordinance

*Helene Lecar, Action Chair*

## AN EXCITING OPPORTUNITY: WORK FOR THE LWVBAE – AND EARN MONEY!!

Be the Office Manager for the League of Woman Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville! We are seeking an organized, detail-oriented person who enjoys working with diverse personalities. The position is part-time, the work hours flexible. Must have a California Driver's License; knowledge of Excel and Quickbooks a plus. The salary is negotiable, depending on experience. The job description is available at [www.lwvbae.org](http://www.lwvbae.org).

For more information, contact *Diane Akers* by email at [dianeakers@aol.com](mailto:dianeakers@aol.com) or by telephone at (510) 524-8152. You may submit your résumé either by email, or by U.S. mail to:

Diane Akers  
716 Curtis Street  
Albany, CA 94706

## AUGUST DONATIONS

### TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

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|------------------------------|-------------------------|
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| Alameda Contra Costa Transit |                         |

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Arthur And Jane Bergen*  
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*Hillary Reinis*  
*Frances Townes*  
*Mary Wallman*

*Louetta Erlin*  
Donations Secretary

## CALIFORNIA LEADS NATION IN SEEKING TO CAP GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

California became the first state in the nation to call for a cap on all greenhouse gas emissions when the state senate on August 30 voted 50-27 to pass AB32. Passage followed several weeks of intense negotiation between leading Democrats and the governor's office, which was under pressure from the state Chamber of Commerce and some business groups to veto the bill. The state League of Women Voters supported the legislation and lobbied for its passage, independently and with a coalition of business and environmental organizations.

In letters to Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Assembly Member Fran Pavley, the League stated its position that "Global climate change poses enormous risks to our economy and to the health and well-being of the people of our state. If current trends for producing greenhouse gases continue, by 2020 total emissions will be 35 percent greater than they were in 1990.

"We are concerned about:

- Rising sea levels, particularly in the San Francisco Bay Area and the San Joaquin Delta,
- Increasingly frequent extreme-heat conditions,
- Increased morbidity and mortality resulting from respiratory problems caused by deteriorating air quality,
- Reduced snow pack and stream flow in the Sierra Nevada mountains,
- Increased variability in agricultural productivity,
- Changes in the distribution of vegetation and increases in high fire danger.

A recent report from the California Climate Change Center at UC Berkeley predicts that policies directed toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions by just eight sectors would create 20,000 new jobs and an increase in the Gross State Product of about \$60 billion by 2020.

The bill calls for a 25-percent reduction in greenhouse gases over the next 14 years. The Air Resources Board is to have regulations for industry reporting and for adoption of a statewide emission limit in place by January 1, 2008. The limits on emissions are to be technologically feasible and cost-effective, and are to take effect January 1, 2011. A "cap and trade" market-based mechanism is allowed but not mandated.

The analysis of the legislation by the Senate Committee on Environmental Quality noted that declarations from the world's leading climatologists indicate that "The effects of global warming are already observed in the decrease in snow water equivalent and in an earlier snowmelt and streamflow timing." The analysis noted that the increase in global sea levels threaten billions of dollars of commercial, industrial and residential structures in San Francisco Bay as well as the integrity of the levees in the Delta. An additional warming of just 2-3 degrees C, would mean 'the potential for a continually unfolding planetary disaster of monstrous proportions."

Prepared by the LWVC Energy Committee

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## SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR TOUR OF THE NEW BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE CAMPUS

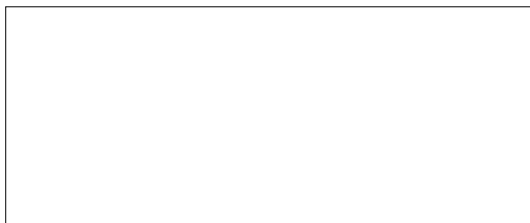
There's still plaster over the floor as we go to press, the boxes are still unpacked, there aren't enough chairs in all the classrooms yet; but everyone is starry-eyed over our new, beautiful, "green" campus building at 2050 Center Street. Come see what's got even the architecture critics glowing.

On Friday morning, November 10, we'll have our own guided tour. From 10:30 to 12 we'll get to see the ins and outs of what is now possible and what will be available for future growth. We'll then have a catered lunch in the Student Lounge and a talk from one of the people who made it all happen. We'll have more specifics and a sign-up form in the November **VOTER**. For further information, contact *Helene Lecar* at 549-9719.



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS**  
of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville  
1414 University Ave., Suite D  
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE**  
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## 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.

#### SEPTEMBER

27 Wed. 5-8:30 pm  
28 Thurs. 7:30 pm

**LWVBAE Fall General Meeting**  
Action Committee, LWVBAE office

*L. Rogers, 559-1006*  
*H. Lecar, 549-9719*

#### OCTOBER

5 Thurs. 5:30-6:30 pm  
5 Thurs. 7-9 pm  
6 Fri. 5 pm  
8 Sun.

"Unit" Meeting re Superintendent of  
Schools, LWVBAE office  
Board Meeting, LWVBAE office  
Deadline For November *VOTER*  
"Spice of Life" table, Andronico's,  
Cedar & Shattuck Sts., Berkeley  
**(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)**

*S. Smith, 548-1769*  
*J. Gardner, 548-5292*  
*A. Kisch, 985-0651*  
*M. Hawley, 527-7727*

9 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm

Environmental Concerns

*C. Stone, 549-0959*

10 Tues.

**COLUMBUS DAY** - LWVBAE office closed

11 Wed. 8:30 am-  
3:00 pm

**Absentee Ballots delivered by USPS**  
Willard Middle School Student  
Elections, 2425 Stuart Street,  
Berkeley **(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED)**

*H. Lecar, 549-9719*

14 Sat.

Memorial Service for *Eva Brecher*

LWVBAE, 843-8824

23 Mon. 5:00 pm

**Last day to register to vote in  
November 7 election - 5 pm DEADLINE**

24 Tues.

California Mock Elections Day  
United Nations Day

26 Thurs. 7:30 pm  
29 Sun. 2:00 am

Action Committee, LWVBAE office  
Daylight Saving time ends;  
Standard Time resumes

*H. Lecar, 549-9719*

#### NOVEMBER

2 Thurs. 7-9 pm  
3 Fri. 5 pm  
7 Tues.

Board Meeting, LWVBAE office  
Deadline For Dec.-Jan. *VOTER*  
**ELECTION DAY**

*J. Gardner, 548-5292*  
*A. Kisch, 985-0651*

10 Fri. 10:30-12 pm

Tour of new Berkeley City College,  
2050 Center Street, Berkeley

*H. Lecar, 549-9719*

13 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm

Environmental Concerns

*C. Stone, 549-0959*

23 Thurs.

**THANKSGIVING DAY** - LWVBAE office closed

30 Thurs. 7:30 pm

Action Committee, LWVBAE office

*H. Lecar, 549-9719*