



The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: Sherry Smith

November 2004

Editor: Lea Barker

GETTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO KNOW HOW 'COOL' IT IS TO VOTE



L to R: Anhu Joshi, Legislative Liaison, Graduate Assembly, U C Berkeley; Liz Hall, ASUC External Affairs Vice President; Jacob Schneider, Junior at Berkeley High School, member of Youth Radio; Taylor Chen, State Board Chair, California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG); Sara Steffens, Staff Writer for the Contra Costa Times, who moderated the panel; Jo Ann B. Price, Program VP.
— Photo by Bill Chapman

At the Fall 2004 General Meeting, we learned the following about engaging the youth vote:

Apathy is not the problem. On college campuses, participation in activities is at a very high level. A large percentage of students belong to some service group or advocate for some cause.

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Chicken and egg syndrome: Young people think that politicians are not interested in their issues, so they don't vote; but politicians seem to be more interested in the issues of people who vote.

Voter education should be started much earlier than the senior year in high school. Most seniors are about to vote for the first time and are not prepared for the "clutter" of initiatives or large number of offices requiring a vote.

Because young people tend to move around frequently, maintaining current registration can be a barrier to voting. Same day registration, which is available in some states, would help. In California, there are no other major structural problems with registration and voting.

—Submitted by Tom Coulter

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear League Members—

Our local League, now known as the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville, was founded in 1911 as the Berkeley Civic League, and is distinguished as one of the oldest and largest Leagues in California.

With over 400 members, we are influential in affecting League policy at the state and national level, and many of our members have served on committees of the California League; several have become the President of LWVC.

But we are still overwhelmingly Berkeleyans. We have a very nice, growing contingent of "Albanians" but just a handful, mostly politicians, from Emeryville. Looking over the membership list, we are also pleased to note that people from Oakland, El Sobrante, El Cerrito, Kensington, Richmond, Piedmont, and even San Francisco have chosen to join our League or to stay as members even though they have moved to another city.

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

<i>Mina Bissell</i>	<i>Edie Silber</i>
<i>Marian Gardiser</i>	<i>Sue Sutton</i>
<i>Jackie Griffin</i>	<i>William Whitson</i>
<i>Althaea Langston</i>	<i>Caroline Wood</i>
<i>Margo Leslie</i>	

We would like to increase our membership from Albany and Emeryville. If you have friends or relations in those cities, please bring them to our Forums and other program events, invite them to attend our next general membership meeting in the spring, or show them a copy of your *VOTER* to inform them about what we do. We work very hard not to be Berkeley-centric in our programs, seeking to serve the "A" and the "E" in our name as well as the "B". With your help in recruitment, we can attain better balance on our three legs.

To assist with this effort, we are forming a committee to work on our descriptive brochure and other printed materials, to enhance our membership recruitment tools. If you are interested in publicity or graphics, we could use your help. Please contact me at the office and we'll form a group after the election.

—Sherry Smith, President

DONATIONS DURING SEPTEMBER

To the General Fund

<i>Lois Brubeck</i>	<i>Doris Maslach</i>
<i>Suzanne Chun</i>	<i>Sylvia McLaughlin</i>
<i>Doris Fine</i>	<i>Elizabeth Schaaf</i>
<i>Mary Friedman</i>	<i>Todd Smith</i>
<i>Babette & Herbert Maccoby</i>	

To the LWVB Foundation

Mary Friedman
Elaine Grossberg
Babette & Herbert Maccoby

To the Tribute Fund

Janet Strothman¹
Lassie & Lloyd Ulman²

¹ In honor of Nancy & Peter Bickel's 40th Wedding Anniversary

² In memory of Emma Lue Kopp



MEMBERS OLD AND NEW!

**HAVE YOU
REMEMBERED TO
GIVE US YOUR E-
MAIL ADDRESS?**

Please send it to
lwvbae@pacbell.net

THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE PERSPECTIVE ON THE CPR

The California Performance Review (CPR): What is it?

On August 3, 2004, Governor Schwarzenegger released the California Performance Review (CPR), a 2700-page document containing more than 1200 recommendations in four volumes. The CPR is an attempt to restructure the executive branch of the state to make it "more efficient, accountable and responsive." The model has echoes of the federal structure about it—much more centralization directly under the Governor with most of the executive branch reorganized into 11 mega-departments. Along with the consolidation, the CPR proposes to cut the state workforce by 12,000.

To reduce the number of boards, commissions and agencies, sweeping changes are envisioned in education, delivery of health care and social services, and oversight of environmental standards. Many county agencies, including the 58 county boards of education, would be absorbed under fewer regional boards.

Process: What Happens Next?

When the CPR was issued, the Governor appointed a 21-member commission to review the document, take testimony and report back to him. Seven one-day hearings were scheduled (the last on September 27), but the public has largely been kept at a distance, with advocate organizations put on waiting lists to testify. The opportunity for public comment ended on September 30, so was extremely short, given the size of the review and the scope of the proposed changes.

Once the Commissioners report their findings, the Governor is then slated to select his own proposals and send them on to legislative counsel and the Little Hoover Commission. They have 60 days to hold hearings and make comments, but their comments are not binding. The Governor will likely submit a package of recommendations that require statutory changes to the legislature in the new session. They then have 60 days to hold hearings, and discuss the content, but must vote the entire package up or down.

The CPR recommendations represent a major shift of power away from elected officials—the legislature, local government and the Superintendent of Public Instruction—to appointed ones.

While everyone agrees that the state government

needs an overhaul, it's possible that the legislature will vote the CPR down as a total package unless the Governor unbundles his proposals so they can be considered separately.

Proposed changes in the Community College System

The reorganization of the state administration of education K-14 is extensive. A new mega-department would remove most of the Supt. of Public Instruction's current policy-making powers for K-12 and vest it in a Secretary of Education, Training and Volunteerism appointed directly by the Governor. The Community College Board of Governors would be abolished. The state CC chancellor's office would report to an Undersecretary for Higher Education Policy and Programs. As the university systems sit outside the Governor's purview, he can't reorganize them without changes to the Constitution.

The CPR has very little to say about where the money to do any of this will come from, and it also skips over the fact that CCs are locally owned and operated by locally elected trustees. Recommendations for the newly expanded office of Education, Training and Volunteerism include ETV 01, which transfers the authority of the Community College Board of Governors and most of the policy-making authority of the Supt. of Public Instruction to the office of the Secretary of Education and Workforce Development; ETV 02, which sets up an Education Workforce Development Council; and ETV 03, which puts the state Chancellor's Office under an Undersecretary for Higher Education Policy and Programs.

Numerous CC District boards of trustees (including LA CCD, Pasadena CCD and San Diego CCD) have already taken written positions opposing many of the provisions.

—Helene Lecar, Chair, Community College Committee



<http://cbp.org> (See "Soup to Nuts")

<http://www.cccco.edu> (See "What's New")

<http://report.cpr.ca.gov/> (For the entire report)

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2004/cpr/082704_cpr_revie_w_ov.htm (For the Leg. Analyst's Office report)

BAY AND BEYOND

BUS RAPID TRANSIT: A BAY AREA PERSPECTIVE

LWV Bay Area is co-sponsoring a forum on November 12 with the Alameda County Congestion Management Agency, AC Transit, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the California Department of Transportation (District 4), and the Mineta Transportation Institute. See next column for further details.

CA LEAGUE COMMENTS ON THE CALIFORNIA PERFORMANCE REVIEW

In comments given to the CPR Commission on September 30, 2004, Jacqueline Jacobberger, President of LWVC, said the League is "concerned that the CPR does not sufficiently address some of the principles, such as adequate financing and coordination among levels of government, and that the channels for citizen input and review need improvement."

The full submission is available as a PDF file on the LWVC website.

DID YOU KNOW?

The LWVUS has a section on its website that highlights the achievements of Leagues around the nation. Leagues as far apart as Seattle and Baton Rouge have contributed information about their involvement in issues from judicial campaign reform to coordination with Smackdown Your Vote! to arranging conferences on Families Rebuilding Families for prison inmates and their families.



LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org>

LWVC: <http://www.ca.lwv.org>

LWVBA: <http://www.lwvba-ca.org>

LWVBAE: <http://lwvbae.org>

ATTENTION !! ATTENTION !!!! ATTENTION !!!!!!!

Three questions for you, bearing in mind that the League doesn't pay for speakers at its Community Luncheon:

1. *Would you like to be involved?*
2. *Whom do you suggest for a really good speaker?*
3. *Where would you like it to be held?*

The Committee welcomes and encourages your participation. Please call the League office (510) 843-8824 with your offer to serve on the committee, the name of the speaker you would like to hear and the topic you'd like her/him to address, and your suggestion for a location. The Committee won't be working intensively on the event until after the first of the new year.

However, negotiations for the speaker must go forward now in order to have a name to put on the invitation in time for an early mailing.

Thanks!

—Jo Ann B. Price, Program VP

BUS RAPID TRANSIT A BAY AREA PERSPECTIVE

Date: Friday, November 12, 2004

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Place: Joseph P. Bort MetroCenter
Lawrence D. Dahms auditorium
101 Eighth Street, Oakland

Transit agencies in the Bay Area are considering or planning to institute Bus Rapid Transit service on as many as five corridors. This forum will discuss the I-880 Corridor in Alameda County, a route in active planning for deployment next year.

MEETING REPORTS

FALL GENERAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 30, 2004



LWVBAE President, Sherry Smith, and Voter Services VP, Jinky Gardner, who chairs the Civics Education Study.
—Photo by Bill Chapman

Civics Education Study Adopted

After some lively discussion about the wording, and with one opposing vote, the membership adopted the following scope for the Civics Education Study:

- *How are the pupils in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville taught to be responsible citizens?*
- *What civics education should the students of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville receive in order to become active, informed citizens?*

New Membership Fee from Oct. 1, 2004

Those attending the general meeting approved the Board's request that membership fees be increased from \$55 to \$58 for primary members and from \$25 to \$27 for a second member in a household. This change is to cover the increased per member payment that goes to the California and National Leagues.



<http://lwvbae.org/FallMeet2004.htm>

BERKELEY TAXES FORUM

EXPLAINS \$\$ BALLOT MEASURES

A balanced and articulate panel presented their positions on both sides of the Berkeley ballot measures that would raise taxes for Berkeley property owners and utility users, at a forum presented by LWVBAE at the Berkeley Library's main branch on October 5.

The panel discussed Measures J, K, L, and M on the November 2 Berkeley ballot: J would increase the Utility User's Tax for a limited number of years; K would benefit Youth Services through an increase in the Real Property Transfer Tax; L increases the Library Services Tax; and M is an increase in the Emergency Medical Services Tax.

Fran Packard, former President of the LWVBAE and of the California League, moderated a panel that included, on the "pro" side, Jackie Griffin, Director, Berkeley Public Library; Cisco De Vries, Chief of Staff for Mayor Tom Bates; and Julie Sinai, a Senior Aide in the Mayor's office.

Speaking in opposition were Dean Metzger, President of CENA and \$Budget Watch\$; and David Wilson, an attorney who was representing BASTA!, an organization that opposes these local tax measures. The audience was treated to an extremely informative exchange among the panelists, and in their answers to questions.

Our League urges a "Yes" vote on Measure K, the Property Transfer Tax for Youth Services; and a "Yes" vote on Measure L, the Library Services Tax. In addition to these measures, the League also urges a "Yes" vote on Measure N, the Gann Override, where the voters are asked for permission to continue to spend the special tax revenues they previously approved; it does not create a new tax or increase an existing tax.

—Sherry Smith, President



<http://lwvbae.org> (See "Pros and Cons")
See printed *Pros and Cons* at libraries.



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

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CALENDAR

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Address: _____

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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.

NOVEMBER

- | | | | | |
|----|-------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| 2 | Tues. 7am - 8pm | ELECTION DAY 2004 | LWVBAE Office | 843-8824 |
| 3 | Wed. 7 - 9pm | Board Meeting | LWVBAE Office | <i>S. Smith</i> , 548-1769 |
| 5 | Friday Noon | Deadline for Dec-Jan VOTER | lwvbae@pacbell.net | <i>Barker</i> , 532-5773 |
| 8 | Mon. 7:30pm | Environmental Concerns: Organic Foods (CCOF) | 1340 Arch St. (<i>Bansner</i>) | <i>Stone</i> , 549-0959 |
| 9 | Tues. 7 - 9pm | Civics Education Study | 2339 Edwards St. | <i>Gardner</i> , 548-5292 |
| 11 | Thurs. | LWVBAE Office closed for Veterans Day Holiday | | |
| 12 | Friday 1 - 3:45pm | Bus Rapid Transit Forum (LWV Bay Area, sponsors) | 101 8 th Street, Oakland | James Swofford, 468-5871 |
| 18 | Thurs. 7:30pm | Action Committee | 1419 Grant (<i>Watts</i>) | <i>Safir</i> , 524-9088 |
| 30 | Tues. 7 - 9pm | Civics Education Study | 2339 Edwards St. | <i>Gardner</i> , 548-5292 |

DECEMBER

- | | | | | |
|----|---------------|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | Wed. 7 - 9pm | Board Meeting | LWVBAE Office | <i>S. Smith</i> , 548-1769 |
| 9 | Thurs. 7:30pm | Action Committee | 1419 Grant (<i>Watts</i>) | <i>Safir</i> , 524-9088 |
| 13 | Mon. 7:30pm | Environmental Concerns: Organic Wine Tasting | 1340 Arch St. (<i>Bansner</i>) | <i>Stone</i> , 549-0959 |