



THE VOTER

JUNE 6, 2006 PRIMARY ELECTION WHO IS ON THE LOCAL BALLOT?

Filing deadlines have been met and this primary election season will see four **locally** contested elections for Woodland voters to weigh in on, as well as five county races where the incumbent is running unopposed. The names listed below are in the order that they appear on the Yolo county elections office website.

Woodland City Council:

Dan Ryhal
Marlin H. "Skip" Davies
Bill Marble
Xavier Tafoya

3rd District Supervisor:

Matt Rexroad
Frank Sieferman, Jr.
Brenda Cedarblade

Yolo County Assessor:

Joel Butler
Bob Milbrodt

Yolo County District Attorney

Jeff Reisig
Patricia Lenzi

Yolo County Clerk-Recorder:

Freddie Oakley

Yolo County Public Guardian/Administrator:

Cass Sylvia

Yolo County Sheriff-Coroner:

Ed Prieto

Yolo County Superintendent of Schools:

Jorge Ayala

Auditor-Controller/Treasurer-Tax Collector:

Howard Newens

Woodlanders will also be asked to vote on local Measure A - Establishing an Urban Limit Line and Measure E - Extending the current half cent sales tax. Measure E will be accompanied by advisory Measures B, C, and D. In addition, the statewide races for Governor, US Senator, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Controller, Treasurer, Attorney General, Insurance Commissioner, and Superintendent of Public Instruction will be on our ballot.

Proposition 81 - Library Bonds and Proposition 82 - Tax for Public Preschool will also appear on the ballot.

WHAT IS AN URBAN LIMIT LINE?

The Latino Community Council, Woodlanders for Responsible Government and the League of Women Voters will be sponsoring an educational forum on urban limit lines featuring CSUS public policy and economics professor, Robert Wassmer.

In November, 2005 Wassmer authored "Who Supports Local Growth and Regional Planning to Deal with Its Consequences?" - a paper offering a statistical analysis of factors that determine individual support for further growth in one's county, as well as support for regional coordination of local land use decisions. Wassmer is also the author of two books, "Readings in Urban Economics: Issues and Public Policy" and "Bidding for Business: The Efficacy of Local Incentive Use in a Metropolitan Area."

Where: Leake Room,
Woodland Public Library,
250 First Street
When: Wednesday, April
26, 7 p.m.

LWV Board of Directors 2005-06

Please contact any member of the board
with your ideas and questions.

Co-presidents

Pat Murray 662.9092
phmur695@sbcglobal.net

Bj Ford 662.0952
bjford@pacbell.net

1st Vice-president

Publicity

Barbara Fleck 661.9555
cbfleck@earthlink.net

2nd Vice-president

Membership

Debbie Peterson 662.9510
debbiepeterson@emalab.com

Recording Secretary

Kathy Harryman
662.2189
rosekay@hotmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

vacant

Treasurer

Judy Simas
662.1343
jsimas@wjusd.org

Voter Services

Meg Stallard
666.0154
megstallard@yahoo.com

Legislative Chair

Suzi Ishikawa 304.3052
suziishikawa@hotmail.com

Publications

Pat Butler 530.525.0641
tahoebutler@sbcglobal.net

Finance Directors

Lucinda Talkington 662.0535
lucobtalk@sbcglobal.net

Sadie Barga 662.5136

Voter Editor

Carol Souza Cole 666.2097
redwood@cal.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Pat Murray

If you missed Dr. Jacki Cottingim's "Live at Five" last month, you missed a great dialogue between those who want excellence in all students' achievement and those who are concerned with students, who will not go to college, having the prerequisites for career pathways. There was a good turnout for the event and an appreciation for the ideas that were presented. A good dialogue occurred. To quote Albert Einstein, "We can't solve problems by using the same thinking we used when we created them". Dr. Cottingim and the Woodland school board are taking a new approach to our existing problems and looking for solutions. My "hat is off" to them and we will look forward to cheering their success.

The league has distributed a great booklet entitled, "California Budget Choices, Our State, Our Future". Sources for information are from the California Department of Finance, the Legislative Analyst's Office, and the National Center for Education Statistics. With the Governor and the Legislature trying to find ways to fix our crumbling infrastructure it is a very timely publication. If you would like a copy call me and leave a message (662-9092), and I will deliver you a copy or you can pick it up



at 1113 McKinley Ave. This publication supplies data on how money is raised in California and how it is spent, and our options. This information correlates with the data in the last Voter.

If you would like to attend a Leadership Council sponsored by the state League it will be held May 6 and 7 in Sacramento at the Holiday Inn Capital Plaza.

You can call B.J. Ford or myself and we can give you further information. It is a great way to see the League in action. At our last board meeting we received the financial results from our fundraiser in February, The State of our Community Luncheon. I would like to thank again all those who contributed to the event particularly Lucinda Talkington and Audrey Doehne for their dedication and leadership. Look in this issue of the Voter for a list of our generous sponsors.

Sincerely,
Pat

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS FOR
THESE UPCOMING
LWV ELECTION FORUMS



MAY 9 CITY COUNCIL

Candidates' Forum

7 pm City Council Chambers

MAY 15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY & 3RD DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR Candidates' Forum
7 pm Pioneer High School Theater

LWV Board Highlights

Board Meeting of March 14, 2006

- Treasurer's Report: Combined checking and savings account balances is: \$14,749.90.
- The board reviewed the draft Voters Service policy developed through the committee work of Judy Simas, Barbara Fleck and Meg Stallard. The policy covers forum procedures, including a proposal to take live questions from the floor, rather than only entertaining questions written on cards.
- Meg Stallard reported on upcoming candidate forums, and the possibility of working with Woodlanders for Responsible Government on a forum was discussed.
- Lucinda Talkington reported on the successful State of the Community luncheon. Net proceeds from the luncheon were \$2,875. Audrey Doehne was thanked for overseeing the preparation of 16 pots of soup, Bj Ford for baking the corn bread, and Debbie Peterson for serving.
- Carol Souza Cole reported 249 website hits for last month.
- Bj Ford and Pat Murray set up a League table at the Woodland Arbor Day celebration with LWV membership forms and voter registration cards.
- Bj Ford proposed LWV sponsorship of a "Soap Box" at the May Festival (May 21). All candidates running for office will have the opportunity to take their turn on the soap box in order to expound on the campaign issues of the day. The board voted to approve this outreach and community engagement activity.

National Priorities for LWVUS

The League of Women Voters US recently announced its national advocacy priorities for the upcoming year (*see page 5 of this Voter for additional comments on these priorities*).

The League recommitted to the "Democracy Agenda," that includes the priorities of election reform, campaign finance reform, redistricting and civil liberties, lobbying reform and ethics, and the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act were added.

In addition, LWVUS continues to work on District of Columbia rights, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and clean air issues will continue.

LEAGUE PARTICIPATES IN ARBOR DAY

The LWV Woodland was represented at the Arbor Day celebration held at the Yolo County Historical Museum (Gibson House) on Saturday, March 11th. It was cold and threatened rain most of the day, but not to be daunted, B.J. Ford and Pat Murray forged ahead and set up the League's table and distributed League material as well as the booklet entitled, "California Budget Choices, Our State, Our Future (see President's Message). Because of the weather, attendance was limited. However, Pat and B.J. did have the opportunity to promote the League.

MANY THANKS TO OUR LUNCHEON SPONSORS

B&B Party Rentals
Sadie Barga
Joel Butler, Chief Deputy County Assessor
Patricia Butler
Citizens Who Care
Jacki Cottingim, Superintendent, WJUSD
The Davis Enterprise
Delta Hearing Aid Center
Dick Fisher, Yolo County Assessor
Bj and Leroy Ford
Evelia Genera
Roger Hahn, Law Office
Sue and Bob Hansen
Mary E. Lacky
Paul Lester, Yolo County Tax Collector
Holiday Matchett
McCandless & Associates
Paul Miller, Librarian, City of Woodland
Patricia H. Murray
Howard Newens, Yolo County Auditor-Controller
Jesse Ortiz,
WJUSD Board of Trustees
Outa Sight!
Primary Residential Mortgage, Mark McComas
Jeff Reisig, Yolo County Deputy District Attorney
Matt Rexroad, Mayor, City of Woodland
Richter Ranch (Twyla & Robert Thompson)
Rose Colored Glass Company
Jane Shurtz
Debbie and Vic Singh
Carol Souza Cole,
WJUSD Board of Trustees
Cass Sylvia, Yolo County Public Guardian
Congressman Mike Thompson
Helen Thomson, Yolo County Supervisor, Second District
Rogelio Villagrana,
WJUSD Board of Trustees
Mariko Yamada, Yolo County Supervisor, Fourth District

SPEAKERS' CORNER: Candidates for public office will get turn on Soapbox



New on the election scene this year will be the "Speakers' Corner" at the Yolo County Historical Museum's Annual May Festival, to be held May 21st at the Gibson Museum.

Sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Woodland and Davis, this new activity will offer the opportunity to candidates for office to step up on the soapbox and expound on the issues of the day. All candidates will be invited and provided the opportunity to make a public speech and will be encouraged to dress in historical attire.

The soapbox is an American oratory tradition dating back to the American Revolution. Long before the days of email, blogs, and text messaging, community members would step up on the soapbox and voice their concerns of the community - sharing visions of the future, and the idea of having a life with liberty. Because of such speeches made, once ordinary people of the community participated in events that have shaped the history that we know, and the liberties that we take for granted today (*excerpted from the Parkville Community online forum*).

Plan to attend this fun activity and cheer on your favorite candidates, or ask the hard questions. For more details, call or email Bj Ford at 662.0952, bjford@pacbell.net.



NEW VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS MUST NOW BE USED

- Notice from the LWVC

The Help America Vote Act (HAVA) required that a uniform voter registration card be used by all states, and on that form (item #6 to be exact) there is a request for identification if a person is registering to vote for the first time. California is required to collect from each registrant an identification number.

New registrants are required to provide either a California driver's license or a California identification card number. If a driver's license or ID card is not available, then the registrants need to provide the last four digits of their Social Security Number (SSN). If this information is not provided at the time of registration the first-time voter may be required to provide identification when they vote.

If voting in person, a first-time voter who registered by mail must present to the appropriate state or local election official, one of the following:

1. A current and valid photo i.d. or
2. A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or other government document that shows the name and address of the voter.

If voting by mail (absentee) a first-time voter who registered by mail must submit a COPY of one of the documents listed above.

Anyone who registers to vote by mail who included a California driver's license or ID card number that the state or local election official can match with an existing state

identification record will not be required to provide identification when they vote for the first time.

Most important, these identification requirements only apply to elections in which a federal office is on the ballot. If the voter chooses not to provide proof of identification, then they may cast a provisional ballot.

NOTE: *The Secretary of State's office includes an online voter registration card on its website. However, this is a bit of a misnomer, since a signature is still required.*

The Secretary of State's office will place the information from the online form onto a regular Voter Registration Card, which will be mailed to the online registrant for signature. The registrant must mail the card back to the Secretary of State's office in order to be registered to vote.

NEW COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATION IN WOODLAND

A group called "Latino Community Council" has been formed in Woodland. The mission of this 501(c)4 organization is:

"To serve as Community Advocates for Responsible Empowerment of the Latino community in education, economics, social and political standing."

Executive officers are: Jesse Ortiz - chairperson, Olga Nevarez - vice chair, Anna Del Castillo - treasurer, Patricia Valenzuela - communications and Ed Prieto - parliamentarian.

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY AT RISK: AGENDA FOR RENEWAL AND REPAIR

*Excerpts from a speech by LWVUS
President Kay J. Maxwell, to the New
Mexico League of Women Voters*

Today, American democracy is at risk. Many of us share an uneasy feeling about the direction our country is taking. It comes in many forms, and covers a variety of issues. I want to share with you the concerns that we in the League of Women Voters have about the basic mechanisms of our government – why we believe that American democracy is at risk and what we believe must be done to put our country on the right track.

DEMOCRACY AGENDA

Years of band-aid solutions and neglect have allowed many of our government systems to grow weak. Our Democracy Agenda offers viable solutions to help overcome those weaknesses, and educate communities and citizens nationwide, on how to improve things. This effort is about protecting our electoral processes through election reform efforts and reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act; advancing our representative government through nonpartisan redistricting; preserving our constitutional rights by safeguarding civil liberties; and protecting against government corruption through campaign finance and lobbying reform.

Democracy is at risk when long lines and faulty voting processes keep Americans from voting and having their votes counted; when partisan gerrymandering ensures that elections are over before the people vote; when government actions threaten basic civil liberties.

And, democracy is at risk when special interest money plays a dominant role. We believe we must renew and repair our democracy so that it truly works for all citizens.

Election Reform

The first item on our Democracy Agenda is election reform.

The 2000 election exposed major flaws in our election system. Congress finally acted by passing a bipartisan, compromise bill -- the Help America Vote Act, better known as HAVA. Its goal was, and is, to make sure that all voters can participate in elections and that all votes of eligible voters are counted.

We in the League have identified four steps that need to be taken to improve the administration of our elections:

The first step we recommend is professionalization of election administration. Election administration is not rocket science. It's basic management. The problem is that we are putting election workers out there on Election Day without the resources, the training or the equipment they need.

The second step needed is to put the "service" back in "voter service." How long would a fast food chain survive if its workers regularly allowed long lines to form without opening up more registers? How long would it survive if employees didn't help customers who had questions or who had problems navigating the system?

Third, we need to launch a wide-ranging research and development effort to apply 21st Century systems and technologies to the election process. The redesign of polling place operations to accommodate modern technology would clearly benefit from additional research and development.

Fourth, and finally, we need a substantial and sustained investment on the part of the federal government. We need to get real about the resources that are required to run elections in a way that is consistent with this nation's democratic ideals. You get what you pay for. It is a price measured not in dollars, but in Americans' declining faith that the system will serve their interests fairly and efficiently.

What is the League doing to improve our election systems; what are we doing to fight against the new threats?

In Ohio, the League of Women Voters has filed a lawsuit alleging that the current Secretary of State, the Governor and their predecessors failed to ensure and protect the right to vote. The lawsuit is not based on one election, but rather on problems over three decades that relate to voter registration, training of poll workers and allocation of voting machines. In Georgia, the League has been active in the legislature and has joined with other concerned organizations in suing to overturn restrictions on voter participation.

Thomas Jefferson once observed that it is the responsibility of each generation to give new definition to American democracy. For those of us who believe that the active and informed participation of citizens is essential to our government, for those of us who work every day to engage our communities and the nation in the critical issues of the day, America is at a crossroads. We need every concerned citizen to join with us in protecting our representative system of government, and we need every concerned citizen to reach out and encourage others to participate in our cause.

Join the League Today!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone: _____

email address: _____

I would prefer to receive the monthly newsletter, The Voter, by:

_____ email _____ USPS mail _____ both

Dues: \$45 individual, \$60 for a family. Voluntary contributions of \$5 are welcome to cover recent state dues increases. While dues to LWV are not tax deductible, contributions to our Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Education Fund contributions are needed and used for voter outreach and education.

Mail dues to: LWV Woodland • P.O. Box 2463 • Woodland CA 95776



LWV WOODLAND
P.O. BOX 2463
WOODLAND CA 95695

Calendar

APRIL 10, 2006

City Council and Yolo County Assessor race candidate forum 7 pm 25 N. Cottonwood St, DESS, sponsored by Latino Community Council (LCC)

APRIL 11, 2006

LWV Board Meeting, 7 pm, Debbie Peterson's house

APRIL 24, 2006

District Attorney & 3rd Dist. County Supervisor candidate forum; sponsored by LCC, 7 pm 25 N. Cottonwood St., DESS

APRIL 26, 2006

Urban Limit Line Forum featuring Dr. Robert Wassmer, CSUS. Co-sponsored by LCC, Woodlanders for Responsible Government (WRG) and the LWV. 7 pm, Leake Room, Woodland Public Library

MAY 9, 2006

LWV City Council Candidate Forum
7 pm, City Council Chambers 300 First St.

MAY 15, 2006

LWV District Attorney and 3rd Dist. Supervisor Candidate' Forum 7 pm Pioneer H.S. Theater