



THE VOTER

HEALTHCARE FOR ALL Notes from the March 8 forum

by Dan Braunstein

The Woodland forum on March 8 was notable for the excellent presentations made by each of the four members of the panel, followed by a lively question and answer interchange with the audience. Seventeen people attended.

Following are the key points made by the panelists:

- Dr. Bette Hinton, Yolo Health Officer: The current health insurance system is a disaster; there are many negative public health consequences for the county. A reformed single payer system would be preferred.
- Roger Clarkson, Yolo County Indigent Care Manager: We have over 20,000 uninsured individuals in the county (10.5% of a county total population of 190,000). Only 15,000 get indigent support for health services. Although these services cover quite a few, there remains a significant gap.
- Dennis Lindsay, CFO, Nugget Markets, Inc.: As a self insuring employer (currently employs over 1,500), we see our costs rapidly escalating, especially if a few individuals have costly illnesses. Ultimately, I see some form of single payer insurance emerging from reform

discussions, but I see little understanding by politicians and others of what people really need, or want. What kind of coverage is the goal of reform?

- Tom Pinizzotto, Manager of Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services: The distinction between physical and mental

health illness coverage for individuals that currently exists in insurance is inappropriate and medically, psychologically unwarranted.

*California Legislature
Senate Health Committee
hearing on SB 840 & SB 1014
April 18 1:30 pm
Room 4203*



Some Facts about Health Insurance

- 7 million Californians are uninsured. Millions more are underinsured
 - Half of personal bankruptcies are caused by medical bills
 - For-profit managed care maximizes profit and rations care
 - Costs are rising for premiums, co-pays, and deductibles often for less coverage
- www.healthcareforall.org*

LWV Board of Directors

2006-07

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

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**CO-PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

by Pat Murray

Dear Members & Friends,

The League has sponsored some very interesting events recently. The March 8 Healthcare For All workshop had a



good community turnout (although I expected to see more League members there). Good information was presented and the panelists' remarks stimulated some good questions and answers.

The March 26 "Inconvenient Truth" presentation was very well attended by League, Tuleyome and Sierra Club members. Organized by League member and Tuleyome executive director, Debra Chase, this informative evening made clear that our planet is changing and there are actions we can take to stop the global climate crisis that is quickly unraveling.

On March 10 Bj and I interviewed Assemblymember Lois Wolk on issues concerning healthcare, the environment, the state budget, redistricting, and her future legislative priorities. See her responses on the next page.

The next League board meeting will be April 17 at Kathy Harryman's house. The annual meeting will also be held at Kathy's and has been scheduled for June 12. The nominating committee will be putting the slate of officers together in April. Please consider serving on the board next year. We need you!

Sincerely,

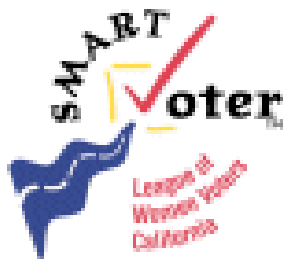
Pat



**MEMBERSHIP
CORNER**

A copy of the updated membership roster, will be coming your way soon from membership chair Debbie Peterson. This roster is for League use only.

In each edition of The Voter, a membership form is published. Please forward this Voter and encourage your friends and colleagues to become a member of the League.



GLOBAL WARMING FORUM

A multi-media slideshow on global warming and discussion of solutions was presented on Tuesday, March 26, in the Leake Room at the Woodland Public Library. This event was well presented by Davis resident, and Sierra Club regional director Carl Zichella and was sponsored by regional environmental and agricultural conservation organization, Tuleyome and the Woodland League of Women Voters. Many well considered questions were posed and discussed afterwards. If you missed this presentation another will be held on Sunday, April 22 at the Veteran's Memorial Theater in Davis. The program will start at 12:30. Admission is free.

Zichella is one of nearly 1,000 citizens that have been trained by The Climate Project to deliver this science-based presentation. He was selected from a pool of thousands of applicants and has agreed to deliver this important message to the community. The Climate Project presenters intend to reach more than a million audience members in 2007.



Interview with 8th District Assemblymember

Some interview highlights...

Question: Several health care reform measures to extend coverage will be considered this legislative session. What are your thoughts about the merits of these different reforms?

Any good healthcare reform bill that comes before me, I will vote for! She supports SB840. She believes in children first, unconditionally and with no restrictions. Many states have different healthcare bills, but the federal government is the best place to generate a national program. Many issues must be considered, such as the employee mandate (which may violate federal ERISA law).

Question: California is expected to grow by 20 million people over the next two decades. What measures can the legislature take to accommodate the anticipated increases in resource demands? Specific areas of concern include land use, energy, water and California's contribution to global warming.

Wolk has recently introduced AB224 which would require state and local water agencies to incorporate climate change projections into ongoing water planning efforts. Wolk's chief focus has been on connecting land use policy and flood control in the Central Valley. The legislature has access to information from past studies, but little action has been seen on this topic. The money recently allocated for flood control must be spent in such a way to consider responsible planning of future growth. It is the legislature's responsibility for maintaining the state's infrastructure. The state must provide groundwater storage and

more bypasses along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers.

Question: Would you support a legislative effort to place a proposal on the ballot that would establish an independent citizens redistricting commission? What specific provisions would you like to see in such a proposal?

Yes. There is a real need for redistricting reform. The question is who does it? Lois supports the League of Women Voters positions, as well as is co-authoring a proposal with Senator Alan Lowenthal to create an independent redistricting commission.

Question: What are the major issues that you see the legislature must deal with in 2006? What are your personal priorities?

First priority is a two year budget with a Budget Policy Committee that has accountability and uses sunset clauses. Other priorities include: prison reform, water issues, education, the environment, transportation and political reform.

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Calendar 2007

April 17 Board Meeting 7 pm Members welcome. Kathy Harryman's house.

June 12 ANNUAL MEETING