



# THE VOTER

## Apportionment: Where Does the League Stand?

***A Little History:*** The apportionment of election districts was a state issue until the Supreme Court rulings of 1962 and 1964. These rulings, spelling out the basic constitutional right to equal representation, required that both houses of a state legislature must be apportioned substantially based on population. Thus, the issue was transferred to the national arena. And then Congress got involved - by introducing constitutional amendments and laws to subvert the Court's one-person, one-vote doctrine. In subsequent years, the League's position supported the Supreme Court rulings.

***League action*** on both the national and state levels during the late 1960's had a significant role in the defeat of efforts to circumvent the Court's ruling. The League first lobbied in Congress against the Dirksen Amendment, which would have allowed apportionment of one legislative house based on factors other than population, and later worked to defeat resolutions to amend the Constitution by petition of state legislatures for a constitutional convention. After the 1980 census, state and local Leagues used the new position to work for equitable apportionment of state and local representative bodies. In preparation for the 1990 census, Leagues conducted projects to encourage the widest possible participation in that year's census as a way to ensure the most accurate population base for apportionment and redistricting.

***Behind the League position on Apportionment is a conviction that a population standard is the most equitable way of assuring that each vote is of equal value in a democratic and representative system of government.***

Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, as amended in 1982, provides for the creation of majority-minority districts as the primary means to remedy a state pattern of racial gerrymandering. In a controversial 1993 case, *Shaw v. Reno*, the Supreme Court ignored the Voting Rights Act and ruled that the creation of majority-minority districts with extremely irregular shapes violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

In 1998-99 the League urged Congress to fully fund the 2000 census and to support scientific sampling as the means to ensure the most accurate count. State Leagues also have worked to ensure that scientific sampling is used for redistricting within the states. *(from LWVUS issues)*

***Read the League's summary position on page 2.***



### HOLIDAY PARTY

*It's another delicious and exciting progressive dinner party for the League!*

THURSDAY,  
DECEMBER 14

6 p.m. 418 Buena  
Vista

6:45 p.m. 1622  
Edwin Ave

7:30 p.m. 1113  
McKinley Ave

8:15 p.m. 131  
Hayes St.

*Please RSVP to Pat  
Murray (662-9092)  
today!*



## LWV Board of Directors

2006-07

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

### Co-presidents

Pat Murray 662.9092

[phmur695@sbcglobal.net](mailto:phmur695@sbcglobal.net)

Bj Ford 662.0952

[bjford@pacbell.net](mailto:bjford@pacbell.net)

### 1st Vice-president

#### Publicity

### 2nd Vice-president

#### Membership

Debbie Peterson 662.9510

[debbiepeterson@emalab.com](mailto:debbiepeterson@emalab.com)

### Recording Secretary

Kathy Harryman

662.2189

[rosekay@hotmail.com](mailto:rosekay@hotmail.com)

### Treasurer

Judy Simas

662.1343

[jsimas@wjusd.org](mailto:jsimas@wjusd.org)

### Voter Services

Meg Stallard

666.0154

[megstallard@yahoo.com](mailto:megstallard@yahoo.com)

### Publications

Pat Butler 530.525.0641

[tahoebutler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tahoebutler@sbcglobal.net)

### Finance Directors

Lucinda Talkington 662.0535

[lucbobtalk@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lucbobtalk@sbcglobal.net)

Sadie Barga 662.5136

### Voter Editor

Carol Souza Cole 666.2097

[redwood@cal.net](mailto:redwood@cal.net)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*by Pat Murray*



Thanksgiving is past and we find ourselves having a great deal to be thankful for.

The general election is also behind

us. I had the good fortune to work as a "rover" for this election. I went to twelve precincts helping in any way that was needed.

It was a rewarding experience to observe our election workers functioning so well in a very complicated system. Electronic Voting Machines were available for the disabled this year. There were a few glitches, however, none that can't be worked out by the time the next election rolls around.

Our election system in Yolo County is a credit to the many hard working county employees working along side of the many volunteers who put in long hours to "make democracy work."

There is still time to serve on the local campaign finance committee being headed up by Bj Ford. To get in on this local study, call Bj at 662-0952 to sign up.

Our next big event will be December 14 and feature a progressive dinner and holiday party. Last year's event was such a success, we decided on a reprise for this year. By the time you receive this Voter you should

have received your party invitation - look for that red envelope coming by mail. Please RSVP to me (662-9092). Friends and those interested in joining the League are welcome to attend along with you. Spouses are encouraged to attend the festivities, as well.

Looking forward to seeing you on December 14th

Merrily,

Pat

↓ *Continued from page 1*

## The League's Position on Apportionment

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that congressional districts and



government legislative bodies should be apportioned substantially on population. The League is convinced that this standard, established by the Supreme Court, should be maintained and that the United States Constitution should not be amended to allow for consideration of factors other than population in apportionment.

**vote411**

[www.vote411.org](http://www.vote411.org)

## **SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE INITIA- TIVE ENTERS CIR- CULATION**

NOV. 17 SACRAMENTO, CA - Secretary of State Bruce McPherson announced today that the proponent of a new initiative may begin collecting petition signatures for his measure.

The Attorney General's official title and summary is as follows:

***SINGLE-PAYER HEALTH CARE COVERAGE. INITIATIVE STATUTE.*** (partial initiative text follows)

Establishes a state agency to administer new California Health Insurance System. Provides California residents single-payer comprehensive health care coverage, including prescription drugs. Funded by premiums imposed on income-earners and employers, based on specified criteria, and existing federal, state and local health care funds. Phases out private health care plans/ insurance policies for services provided by the System. Summary of estimate by Legislative Analyst and Director of Finance of fiscal impact on state and local governments: one-time increase in state spending in the low millions of dollars to establish a Premium Commission. If the measure is enacted and future actions were taken to fully implement a single-paper health care system, state revenues and spending could increase by roughly \$155 billion annually. The proponent for this measure, David Head (510-583-1242), must collect 373,816 signatures of registered voters by April 16 2007 in order to qualify.

For more information go to [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov).

## **STAY ACTIVE! MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS GO YEAR-ROUND**

In an effort to accommodate individual members' calendars, membership renewals will be validated year-round. Previously, all member renewals were processed after July 1; usually in the fall at the annual membership kick-off. While this worked for most members, some members join at other times of the year, and in essence pay a full year's membership for a partial year of actual membership.



Beginning January, 2007 membership anniversary dates will be the date membership is received - with renewals due one year later. Thus, whenever your dues are received, you will receive a full year's membership.

Notification of pending renewals will happen in the following ways: you will be reminded with a phone call and email; the Voter will list members' names who need to renew; a dues are due stamp will appear on your mailed Voter. If membership is

not received within a month, the membership will be placed on inactive status until membership dues are received. Please be sure to get your membership renewal in on time to avoid any disruption in your membership.

- Debbie Peterson,  
Membership Chair

## **BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

The board met November 14. Following are considerations of, and key actions by the board:

- Dues are due
- Information from state League for the general election arrived within two weeks of the election. Co-president Bj Ford will be addressing this issue in a letter to the state League board.
- Overall opinion of the first Democracy Works event was that it went very well.
- Judy and Debbie will be coordinating the membership renewal notices.
- Lucinda reported that plans for the February 7 State of the Community luncheon are underway. Assemblywoman Lois Wolk will be the featured speaker. Tickets will be printed the first week of January.
- Bj will represent the League at the upcoming Valley Vision Transportation workshop.
- Women's History Month will kick-off a month-long celebration with the 20th year anniversary luncheon March 8 2007.



Renew your membership 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.

[WWW.WOODLAND.CA.LWVNET.ORG](http://WWW.WOODLAND.CA.LWVNET.ORG)



LWV WOODLAND  
P.O. BOX 2463  
WOODLAND CA 95695

**CALENDAR**

2006

**December 14** Holiday Party 6 pm (see p. 1 for location details)

2007

**January 9** Board Meeting 7 pm Members welcome

**February 7** State of the Community Luncheon featuring Lois Wolk

**February 13** Board Meeting 7 pm Members welcome

**Dues are now due**

**Dues are due NOW!  
E-subscribers, print  
this form and  
MAIL DUES TO:  
LWV WOODLAND  
P.O. BOX 2463  
WOODLAND CA  
95776**