



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Western Nevada County

October 2012

OUR OCTOBER MEETING



The Pros & Cons of the November Ballot Measures

Presented by:

THE VOTER SERVICE TEAM OF LWVWNC



Saturday, October 13, 2012

Refreshments at 9:30 a.m. - Program at 10:00 a.m.

**Peace Lutheran Church
828 West Main Street
Grass Valley**

OUR OCTOBER 13 MEETING PROS & CONS



THE CURRENT CALIFORNIA 2012 BALLOT MEASURES

California state lawmakers sent nearly 1000 bills to Governor Jerry Brown for his signature or veto. But there are always issues that our elected representatives can and will dodge, especially those related to criminal justice and taxes. Enter the “initiative process”, Election November 2012, and several of the initiatives (now called “propositions”) voters face on November 6.

PROPOSITIONS 30, 38, 39 and 31:

There are four propositions that deal with taxes and budgeting: **Prop 30 and 38**, which propose tax increases, are the result of failed negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature. As a result of this impasse, Governor Brown launched an initiative that became **Prop 30** and an attorney, Molly Munger, launched one that became **Prop 38**. **Prop 39** which would change the way out-of-state corporations pay taxes, goes after the same tax break that Assembly Speaker John A. Perez tried unsuccessfully to get the Legislature to reverse this year. Governor Brown tried to undo this legislation last year, but partisan politics led to inaction. **Prop 31** would change several aspects of the state budget process—including implementing performance-based budgeting, an idea that cleared the Legislature but was vetoed by Brown.

PROPOSITIONS 34, 36 and 35:

Three propositions deal with criminal justice: **Prop 34** would repeal the death penalty, a change that by law must be made by voters. A bill last year would have put the question on the ballot, but didn’t get much support in the Legislature. **Prop 36** would change the “three strikes” law so that offenders could be sentenced to life in prison only if their third felony is “serious or violent.” A 2006 bill would have put the same question to voters, but was shot down by the Legislature. **Prop 35**, (HumanTrafficking, Penalties, Sex Offender Registration), was born after lawmakers quashed the ideas, under pressure to downsize the state’s prison population, and were not interested in taking the lead in stronger sentences.

Now, add to all of the above, the following:

Proposition 32: Prohibits Political Contributions by Payroll Deduction,

Proposition 33: Allows Auto Insurance Companies to Set Prices Based on a Driver’s History of Insurance Coverage,

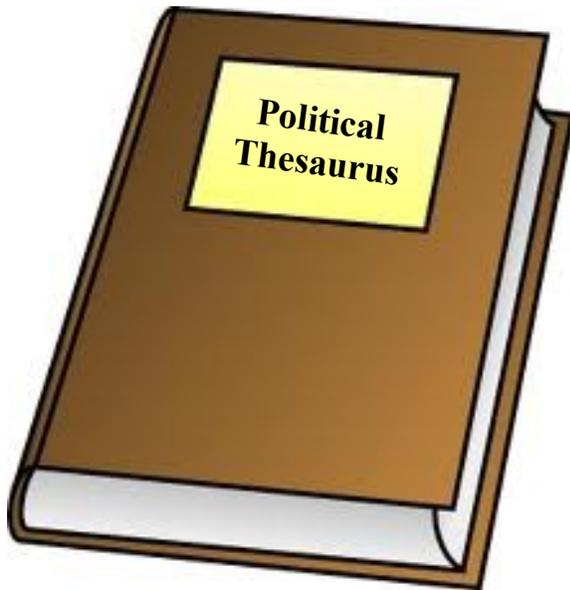
Proposition 37: Genetically Engineered Foods, Mandatory Labeling ,

Proposition 40: Redistricting State Senate Districts,

and **you, the electorate**, have an indisputable reason to make that extra commitment to attend the League’s October 13 Meeting as your Voter Service Committee presents:

The Pros & Cons of the Eleven Ballot Issues

Ruth Schwartz, Voter Service Chair



adult conversation. *n.* = lecture
bold. *adj.* = risky
apologize if anyone was offended *v.* = did not apologize
autobiography *n.* = fictional account of one's life and people one did not meet.
politically courageous *adj.* = suicidal
backroom dealer *n.* = corrupt
the base *n.* = nut jobs
fresh *adj.* = unprepared
charismatic *adj.* = not drunk or promiscuous
common sense solutions *n.* = cutting entitlements
courageous *adj.* = desperate
firebrand *n.* = batpoop crazy
firm *adj.* = stubborn
going rogue *adj.* = promoting oneself
hypocrite *n.* = politician
my friend *n.* = NOT
reforms *n.* = privatizing and cutting
back to basics *n.* = family values; attends church; heterosexual

Political Potpourri *n.* = a miscellaneous collection

“That’s the trouble with a politician’s life—somebody is always interrupting it with an election.”
 - Will Rogers (1879-1935)

“Being in politics is like being a football coach. You have to be smart enough to understand the game and dumb enough to think it’s important.”
 - Eugene McCarthy (1916-2005)

“The word ‘politics’ is derived from the word ‘poly’, meaning ‘many’, and the word ‘ticks’, meaning ‘blood sucking parasites’.”
 - Larry Hardiman

“The whole aim of politics is to keep the populace alarmed (and hence clamorous to be led to safety) by menacing it with an endless series of bogie men, all of them imaginary.”
 - H .L. Mencken (1880-1956)

One Vote

One vote made Oliver Cromwell Lord Protector of the Commonwealth of England in 1645.

One vote caused Charles 1 to be executed in 1649.

One vote elected Thomas Jefferson president in 1800.

One vote saved President Andrew Johnson from impeachment in 1868.

One vote changed France from a monarchy to a republic in 1875.

An average of only one vote per precinct passed women's suffrage in California in 1911.

Less than one vote per precinct, in one state, elected Woodrow Wilson President in 1912.

One vote made Tennessee the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment which gave women the right to vote in 1920.

One vote made Adolph Hitler head of the Nazi party in 1923.

A change of one vote per precinct in three states in 1968 would have made Hubert Humphrey president instead of Richard Nixon.

The First Ladies of America

The First Lady of the United States is the hostess of the White House.

The position is traditionally filled by the wife of the President of the United States, but, on occasion, the title has been applied to women who were not presidents' wives, such as when the president was a bachelor or widower, or when the wife of the president was unable to fulfill the duties of the First Lady herself. The First Lady is not an elected position, it carries no official duties and receives no salary. Nonetheless, she attends many official ceremonies and functions of state either along with or in place of the president. Traditionally, the First Lady does not hold outside employment while occupying the office. She has her own staff, including the White House Social Secretary, the Chief of Staff, the Press Secretary, the Chief Floral Designer, and the Executive Chef. The Office of the First Lady is also in charge of all social and ceremonial events of the White House, and is a branch of the Executive Office of the President.



**Incumbent
Michelle Obama**

Since January 20, 2009

According to the White House and the National First Ladies' Library, there have been forty-five First Ladies and forty-six First Ladyships. This discrepancy exists because Grover Cleveland served two non-consecutive terms and is counted chronologically as both the twenty-second and the twenty-fourth president; his wife Frances Folsom Cleveland is also counted twice. Following Barack Obama's inauguration on January 20, 2009, his wife, Michelle Obama, became the forty-sixth official First Lady, succeeding Laura Bush, wife of former President George W. Bush.

As of July 8, 2011, there are five living former First Ladies: Rosalynn Carter, wife of Jimmy Carter; Nancy Reagan, widow of Ronald Reagan; Barbara Bush, wife of George H.W. Bush; Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife of Bill Clinton; and Laura Bush, wife of George W. Bush. The first First Lady of the US was Martha Dandridge Custis Washington, married to George Washington. Presidents John Tyler and Woodrow Wilson had two official First Ladies, both remarried during their presidential tenures. The wives of four Presidents died before their husbands were sworn into Office but are still considered First Ladies by the White House and National First Ladies' Library. Martha Wayles Skelton Jefferson, wife of Thomas Jefferson; Rachel Donelson Robards Jackson, wife of Andrew Jackson; Hannah Hoes Van Buren, wife of Martin Van Buren; and Ellen Lewis Herndon Arthur, wife of Chester A. Arthur. There is one woman who was not married to a President but who is still considered an official First Lady: Harriet Lane, niece of bachelor James Buchanan.

In 2007, the United States Mint began releasing a set of half-ounce \$10 gold coins under the First Spouse Program with engravings of portraits of the First Ladies on the obverse. When a President served without a spouse, a gold coin is issued that bears an obverse image emblematic of Liberty as depicted on a circulating coin of that era and a reverse image emblematic of themes of that President's life. This is true for the coins for Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren and James Buchanan's First Ladies, but not the coin for Chester A. Arthur's First Lady, which will instead depict suffragette Alice Paul.

STUFF YOU MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN:

- The longest one-syllable word in the English language is “screeched.”
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, silver or purple.
- Winston Churchill was born in a ladies’ room during a dance.
- Maine is the only state whose name is just one syllable.
- There are only four words in the English language which end in “-dous”:
tremendous, horrendous, stupendous, and hazardous.
- A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.
- The only real person to be Pez head was Betsy Ross.
- A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.
- A dime has 118 ridges around the edge.
- In England, the Speaker of the House is not allowed to speak.
- ‘Stewardesses’ is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

MORE IRRELEVANT FACTS;

1. In 1938, A Japanese artist made a copy of the Mona Lisa completely out of toast.
2. An average person laughs about 15 times a day.
3. The Neanderthal’s brain was bigger than yours.
4. Every person has a unique tongue print.
5. Most American car horns honk in the key of F.
6. Sigmund Freud had a morbid fear of ferns.
7. Hypnotism is banned by public schools in San Diego.
8. The three best-known western names in China: Jesus Christ, Richard Nixon and Elvis Presley.
9. Thomas Edison was afraid of the dark.
10. The first-known contraceptive was crocodile dung, used by Egyptians in 2000 B.C.

THERE, NOW, WASN’T THAT EDUCATIONAL?**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

We wish to extend our warmest welcome

to:

ROSE HAUGHEY

MAX NORTON

and

ROBIN DIAMOND

New Members’ Orientation**Brunch Cancelled**

The New Members’ Orientation Brunch scheduled for Friday, September 28, has been cancelled and will be rescheduled for later this fall.

Marcy Elliott
Membership co-Chair



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
RECOMMENDS
November 6, 2012 STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

YES **PROP 30 Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act**

Proposition 30 begins to move California toward financial stability and adequate funding for all the services we want from our government; we can't continue to cut vital public services like schools and public safety. This measure will provide some much needed income from a temporary increase in income tax rates for the wealthy and a modest temporary sales tax increase. The plan is a part of a balanced approach to eliminating our deficit that includes \$8 billion in cuts, \$6 billion in new revenues, and \$2.5 billion in loans, deferrals, etc., this year. Proposition 30 also guarantees a stable source of funding for counties to pay for their new public safety responsibilities such as housing low-level prisoners and providing substance abuse treatment.

NO **PROP 31 Government Performance and Accountability Act**

Proposition 31 is based on good intentions and has some pieces that, taken alone, the League could support. However, Prop 31 has several significant flaws. There are questions about whether or not the provisions allow local governments to suspend state environmental requirements. What is clear is that there will be significant legal uncertainty, and years of litigation. In addition, the measure prescribes the specific manner of state and local government budgeting and puts this process into the state constitution. Prop 31 has other questionable provisions, such as establishing a significant shift of power over appropriations to the governor at times of fiscal emergency.

NO **PROP 32 Special Exemptions Act**

This measure is not the campaign finance reform measure its proponents say it is. **Proposition 32** promises "political reform" but is really designed by special interests to help themselves and harm their opponents. It looks like a campaign finance reform measure but unfairly targets one set of large campaign donors while giving other donors unlimited power. Its ban on payroll deductions for political giving will affect unions but not corporations, and even the restriction it places on contributions to candidates by corporations is full of loophole exemptions. It does not fix the problem of money in politics. Super PACs and independent expenditure committees will continue to spend without limitation.

YES **PROP 34 SAFE California Act**

The SAFE California Act will replace the death penalty in California with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Convicted killers will stay in prison for the rest of their lives, eliminating the possibility of executing an innocent person in California. This will save over \$100 million every year-because the court and incarceration costs are so much higher for prisoners at risk for a death penalty. \$100 million of these savings will be allocated over the next four years to pay for increased investigation of unsolved rape and murder cases. Convicted killers will be required to work and pay restitution into a victims' compensation fund.

YES **PROP 40 Referendum on Redistricting**

We strongly urge a "YES" vote on this referendum on the state Senate maps drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; it asks if you want to retain the new law, or in this case, the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. So vote **YES**-to affirm the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, **YES**-in support of the Commission, **YES**-to validate the open, transparent process, **YES**-to retain fair districts.

We appreciate the support of the following businesses and business professionals

SPD Markets

735 Zion Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-4596

www.spdmarket.com

New Moon Café

203 York Street, Nevada City

(530) 265-6399

www.thenewmooncafe.com

A. Ann Armstrong

Armstrong & Associates

200 Auburn Folsom Road #106, Auburn 95603

(530) 269-1515

www.annarmstrong.org

Hair Razors

Amy Pirtle

233 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 263-6330

The Book Seller

107 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-2131

www.thebookseller.biz

Country Copy Print Shop

Maggi Cammack

1200 East Main Street, Grass Valley

(530) 272-4657

BriarPatch Co-op

Natural Foods Community Market

290 Sierra College Drive, Grass Valley

(530) 272-5333

Hours: 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily - www.briarpatch.coop

The Wooden Spoon

A Toy Store for Cooks

2066 Nevada City Highway, Grass Valley

(530) 272-8980

www.woodenspooncalif.com

Mill Street Clothing

Lisa Swarthout

117 Mill Street, Grass Valley

(530) 477-6404

Flour Garden Bakery

999 Sutton Way, Grass Valley 95945

(530) 272-2043

Mon.-Sat. 5am-7pm, Sun. 6am-6pm

www.flourgarden.com

Eskaton Village Grass Valley

625 Eskaton Circle, Grass Valley

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