



The Fresno VOTER

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Calendar

Wednesday, August 25
Ice Cream Social
Flyer Inside

Thursday, August 26
Women's Equality Day

Saturday, September 25
Regional Workshop
Hosted by LWV Fresno
Story Inside

September is Voter
Registration Month

October is Voter
Education Month

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY
APRIL 2, 2011
LWVF 70th Anniversary

New City Manager to Speak at Ice Cream Social

Members and guests are invited to attend the Annual Ice Cream Social on Wednesday, August 25 at 7 p.m. This year it is being held in the relaxing and lovely gardens at the home of Hugh and Jennifer Williamson.

Once again we have been fortunate to book an outstanding speaker for the occasion. Mark Scott, the new City Manager of the City of Fresno, will be our guest and will talk about the revitalization of downtown, as well as other topics. And best of all, he will be available to answer your questions about other relevant matters.

Mark was appointed City Manager by Mayor Ashley Swearingen in April. Born and raised in Fresno, he attended Fresno Unified Schools and graduated from Fresno High and Fresno State University. He also holds an MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.

He began his local government experience with the City of Clovis, where he was Assistant to the City Manager, who by coincidence was our member Al Goodman.

Scott then moved to Dallas/Ft. Worth as Manager of Marketing Planning for American Airlines, responsible for the AAdvantage Frequent Flyer program. In 1983, he began a 20-year career with the City of Beverly Hills, 14 of which were as City Manager. He has also served as City Manager for the cities of Spartanburg, SC and Culver City, CA.



City Manager Mark Scott

In Fresno the City Manager oversees the performance of 14 departments including police, fire, transportation, water, solid waste, airports, parks and recreation, public works, finance, facilities and various administrative functions.

Mark has been married to Carol Scott for 36 years. They have two grown children.

(see flyer for address and directions)

President's Message



Recently the Membership Director of the State League asked if we would be a host league for a Regional Training Workshop this fall. It was a pleasant surprise that our already hard-working Board of Directors decided that it would be a good thing to do, and so we have reserved the date of Saturday, September 25.

The other host leagues are from the Eden Area, Orange County ILO, Sacramento, San Diego and San Luis Obispo. They are all far enough apart so as not to impact on our attendance, which we anticipate will come from our own members, Kern County, Merced County and Tulare County Leagues. Of course, members and guests from anywhere in the state are welcome to attend.

Each Regional Workshop will have at least one LWVC Director on site and the State League will also present at least one of the workshop sessions. Helen Hutchison, the Vice President for Advocacy, will be attending our session. Two of the sessions will be of our own choosing. So far our suggested topics are Water, the upcoming November election, and the Valley Blueprint. Although the State League recruits the presenters, we will have a large say in naming them if we so choose.

The Workshop will be a five-hour event including registration, a light breakfast and lunch. There will be an all-inclusive charge to be determined by our Board, and literature and League logo items will be available for purchase.

Complete information and reservation forms will be available in the September Voter. We hope for a great member turnout from our League.

Francine

Member News

In Memoriam Georgina (Gina) Hill

Past President Gina Hill passed away on July 13, 2010. She had been a member since 1962 and served as LWVF president from 1991 to 1993.

Gina was an active member of League for many years and also a teacher with Fresno Unified and a musician with the Unitarian Universalist Church. She was a lover of cats and her quick wit was famous to all -- especially when calling her home and reaching "Annabelle the Answering Machine". Gina will be missed by her many friends in the arts, education and political communities in Fresno. . A memorial service will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno on Saturday, September 18, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

Change of Address

Patty Campbell
641 North Fowler Avenue
Apt. 238
Clovis, CA 93611
472-3018




We gratefully accept celebratory and memorial gifts.

If you make out your check to LWVF Ed Fund, it will be tax deductible.

Please send to Jane Worsley, Treasurer, LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Fresno, CA 93710





Voter Services

by Liz Shields

Committee approves defunding of Brown Act

The Joint Legislative Budget Conference Committee of the California Legislature is considering a move to partially defund the Brown Act.

The committee has approved a provision of a yet-to-be-drafted budget trailer bill in mid-July to suspend the reimbursable state mandate that requires local governmental bodies under the Brown Act to post a descriptive meeting agenda 72 hours before a regular meeting and stick to it.

The proposal – suggested by the Legislative Analysts Office (LAO) -- would also suspend state reimbursement of the costs associated with reporting to the public decisions made by a local legislative body in closed session. The move, if enacted as part of the budget, reportedly would save the state approximately \$20 million a year.

The LAO plan would make agenda posting and reporting out closed session decisions a non-reimbursable “best practice.” It would require each body governed by the Act to adopt its own plan for noticing its meeting to the public and to file its plan with the Attorney General’s office.

The California Newspaper Publishers Association is opposed to defunding the Brown Act and has also urged the legislature to approve a constitutional amendment for the November ballot that would give the voters the opportunity to put a meeting notice requirement in the Constitution.



Earlier this year four high schools in Fresno County were chosen to participate in a voter registration study designed by the LWVUS to determine the most effective way to conduct voter registration in high schools, particularly those with a high percentage of minority students

One hundred high schools in California, Arizona, Texas, Florida and Virginia were selected to compare classroom presentations of voter registration material to assembly presentations. The end result of the study is to develop a training manual for organizations and educators to utilize in planning their own high school voter registration activities and to develop lasting partnerships with educators, youth groups, and community leaders.

Two local schools, Fowler High School and Hoover High School, were assigned to classroom presentations. Two others, Kerman High School and Sunnyside High School, were assigned to assembly presentations. **Classroom presentations were made at Fowler High and Hoover High in May; the assembly presentations will be made in the fall.**

At Fowler, where 72% of the students are Latino, five classes participated. Charlotte Pavelko and I discussed the importance of voting, particularly in local elections where one or two votes can make the difference in the outcomes. We also described the voting process and shared information

on sources of voter information such as the Easy Voter Guide. Twenty four students, including 15 Latinos, 4 Caucasian, 2 Asian American and 1 African American, registered to vote out of a total of 132 attending the presentations. Others had either registered earlier or were too young to vote in the June election.

At Hoover High, where Latino students make up 39% of the students with 17% Asian Americans and 12% African Americans, 80 students registered to vote out of a total of 192 students who attended the presentations. These included 20 Latino students, 22 Asian Americans and 20 African Americans.

These outreach activities are already developing longer term relations with the schools as teachers at both Fowler High and Hoover High have encouraged us to return to register students in the new senior classes before the November election. Teachers at other Fresno County schools who were not selected for participation in the study have also asked us to provide voter registration materials in the fall to the senior classes. Some have asked for assistance in other ways such as finding polling booths for mock elections and providing booklets on the Constitution.

Please call me (298-5183) or email elizs44@yahoo.com if you are interested in assisting with this project before I contact you!

Board Holds Retreat

At this writing the LWVF Board of Directors is planning to hold its Annual Retreat on July 31. In addition to Board members, also invited were past presidents and some new members. to add their ideas to the topics that will be discussed.

The agenda includes in-depth review of a number of upcoming special events. While in previous years we have scheduled Lunch & Learn sessions as they are needed, this year we hope to take a coordinated approach and develop a calendar in advance for these events.

We will also finalize plans for the Ice Cream Social on August 25 and select topics and discuss speakers for

the Regional Training Workshop (see President's Message, Page 2).

A sub-committee is already working on plans for our League's 70th anniversary which is tentatively scheduled for April 2, 2011. Special guests, invitations, advertising, printing, luncheon and more for this gala afternoon will require much detail work from the Board and from members as well. Anyone interested in helping in any of these areas should contact Terri Figgs, Vice President for Program Planning, tfiggs@riverparkway.org, 431-7274.

Decisions from the Board Retreat will be shared with the membership in the September Voter.

WATER FILM SERIES LISTED

Two films remain in the series about Water Issues. They will be screened at 7 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 2672 East Al-luvial, Clovis.


Aug. 4 Tales of the San Joaquin
Aug. 11 FLOW

Discussions led by Valley Water Consortium experts follow each film. The goal of the series is to improve our understanding of water and its related issues, and to provoke thoughtful discussion based on facts. The discussion leaders will focus the discussions and attempt to make certain that varying perspectives are heard.

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Propositions approved for November ballot

Following are the initiatives that have qualified for the November 2 ballot. The Legislature may still refer additional measures. The signature collection cost of the two initiatives that were on the June 8 ballot averaged \$2.2 million per initiative. If this same cost holds true for November, the cumulative signature collection costs will exceed \$20 million.

Proposition 18 calls for \$11.1 billion in bonds to upgrade California's water system

Proposition 19 legalizes and taxes marijuana

Proposition 20 requires congressional districts to be re-drawn by a committee

Proposition 21 increases vehicle license fees by \$18 annually to fund state parks

Proposition 22 prohibits state government from taking designated types of local funds

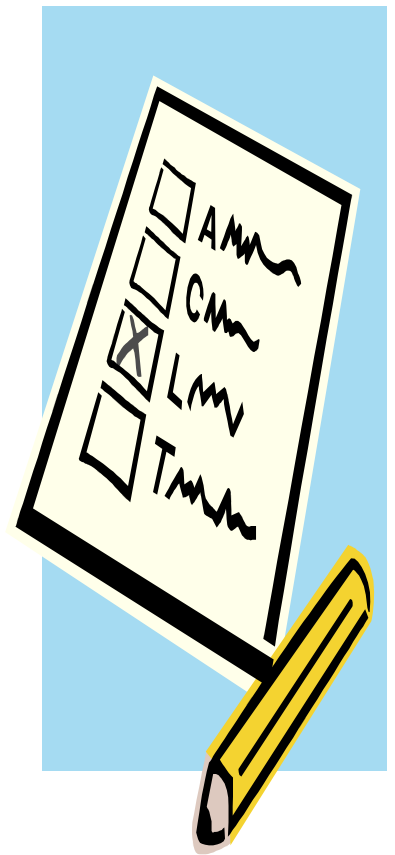
Proposition 23 suspends the Global Warming Solutions Act until unemployment falls below 5.5%

Proposition 24 eliminates three business tax breaks

Proposition 25 allows the state budget to be passed with a simple majority vote

Proposition 26 requires voter permission before new taxes can be imposed

Proposition 27 would repeal Prop 11, in order to return redistricting to the Legislature.



Eighty local elected officials and managers of transportation planning organizations in the San Joaquin Valley gathered in Fresno on June 25 to be briefed on the implementation of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint adopted in 2009 as a framework for growth in the Valley as its population doubles over the next 40 years.

The growth principles

guiding cities and counties in the Valley as general plans are updated.

Attendees from Kern County to San Joaquin County heard details about a "toolkit" being developed to help local planners access model ordinances and other examples of ways in which communities can grow while improving quality of life for

SJV Blueprint group shares progress

by Terri Figgs

and housing density and transportation mix targets adopted in the blueprint are now

residents. Plans are also being made to raise the profile of the San Joaquin Valley Blueprint to those whose work will be impacted by implementation, including developers and agribusinesses.

Martin Tuttle, Deputy Director of Planning and Modal Programs for the California Department of Transportation, reported that 17 of the 18 regional transportation planning organizations in the state have completed blueprint planning projects, and suggested that a new era is being entered that will integrate the regional plans into a blueprint for all of California.

Tuttle expects the California Inter-regional Blueprint to be in draft form by September.

Forum participants formed round table discussion groups based on city size, and identified challenges to implementation of the blueprint along with resources needed to realize the benefits of a regional approach to growth. Feedback from the groups will be incorporated in the implementation strategy that is being coordinated by the Mintier Harnish firm under the direction of the San Joaquin Valley Councils of Government.

What's Your Favorite Flavor?

**Chances Are We'll Have It
at the**

Ice Cream Social



**Wednesday
August 25
7 p.m.**

**Speaker: Mark Scott
Fresno City Manager**

**in the gardens of
Jennifer & Hugh Williamson
2655 West Celeste Ave.
Fresno
Shaw to Bullard
West on Bullard
Left on Briarwood
Left on Celeste**



Members & Guests Welcome!


No Charge

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 of service
 to our community



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Democracy is not a spectator sport

JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS!

Men and Women of Voting Age Making Democracy Work

MISSION: The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens and influences public policy through voter education and advocacy on issues .

NONPARTISANSHIP: The League does not support or oppose any candidate or political party.

DIVERSITY POLICY: There shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVF on the basis of race, creed, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, or socio-economic level.

TO PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS: For more information, please leave your name and phone number on the League message phone, 226-8683, or contact our **Membership Chair, Dolores O’Neal at 435-1185**. Prospective members receive one issue of *The Fresno Voter* free.

JOIN US! Members receive newsletters from national, state and local Leagues, may access local, state and national League websites and list-serves, and may participate in League studies of issues.

Yearly Dues Individual - \$60 ~ Family - \$90 (2 members, same address) ~ Student - \$30

Please send your check payable to the League of Women Voters, Fresno, with registration form (below),
 to: LWVF, 1345 Bulldog Lane, Suite 4, Fresno, CA 93710.

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