



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Special Election**  
November 8, 2005  
Get out and Vote!

**Holiday Awards Party**  
December 14, 2005  
A great time to bring prospective members.

**January Potluck with Tom Lando**  
January 11, 2006  
Chico Women's Club  
592 East Third Street

**Candidate Forums**  
April

**Wine Tasting Fundraiser**  
April 23, 2006  
Lakeside Pavilion at California Park

**Annual Meeting**  
May 9, 2006

Dear Friends,

It is Special Election time with ballot measures that will make significant changes in our lives. Please read the Pros & Cons in your October Voter and state League positions in this month's Voter. On Proposition 80, the state League did not take a position, but its energy study update emphasizes the importance of regulation and conservation, two goals of this measure.

In September Charley Turner gave an excellent analysis of the initiatives for Chico Business and Professional Women and another open to all in October. Jim Gregg has given similar presentations in Redding, Paradise, Oroville, and Gridley, as well as several in Chico. This is an important service of our League, and I offer a big thank-you to these League members for taking the time to study and present the propositions.

As you have noticed, there is a great deal being written about surface and groundwater in California. Barbara Hennigan and Bruce Smith,

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Where do I vote? Finding your polling place.

Before November 8th find out where your polling place is, it may have changed.

Call 530-538-7761 for polling place locations or to to <http://clerk-recorder.buttecounty.net>

The Smart Voter website developed by the League of Women Voters can also help you with any voting questions you may have.  
[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

Save the Date	2
Vote with the League	3
Initiative Analysis	4
League Presentations	5
Voting Rights	5



Chico State Professor Charles Turner discusses the special election propositions and the League positions on each of them with members October 19th at the 1st Baptist Church.

**LEAGUE LEADERS**

**OFFICERS**

President  
 Carol Burr 343-1117  
 1st Vice President  
 Janet Taylor 891-8195  
 2nd Vice President  
 Anastacia Snyder 343-8322  
 Secretary  
 Barbara Todd 342-2549  
 Treasurer  
 Lucy Sperlin 879-9369

**DIRECTORS**

Fundraising  
 Heather Quilici 566-9848  
 Membership & Hospitality  
 Jan Dilg 566-1019  
 Natural Resources  
 Barbara Hennigan 893-8492  
 Bruce Smith  
 Observers  
 Betsy Kruger 345-7563  
 Social Policy  
 Linda Lunsford 342-2081  
 Voter Editor  
 Nikole Hilgeman 518-1746  
 Voter Service  
 Linda MacMichael 345-5586  
 Publicity  
 Krista Gallwitz 354-6847  
 Kristin Cooper-Carter  
 893-5751  
 Appointed Director  
 Lenette Dornon

co-directors of Natural Resources, have been busy gathering and presenting information on this complex issue. In connection with the draft general plan for the county, water—particularly preservation of our aquifer—is the primary focus of League activities in this cycle. If you are interested in helping, contact Barbara or Bruce.

Our Social Policy committee is also busy, preparing presentations on Senate Bill 840: the California Health Insurance Reliability Act (CHIRA). State League has taken a position in support of the bill, and we are sending a letter to Sheila Kuehl, author of the bill, to express local League support. You can learn details of the bill at [www.healthcareforall.org](http://www.healthcareforall.org) or by calling 888-442-4255.

Important dates to remember! Our holiday party and awarding of the Mita Markland Service Award will be on December 14, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Kristin Cooper-Carter and Jeff Carter. This is a wonderful way to reconnect with other League members and celebrate those who, like last year's recipient Anne Nordhus, have committed years of time and energy to the work of the League.

And even though it seems far away, please put the January potluck on your calendar. Tom Lando, retiring City Manager, will share his views on city planning. We will also hear from our hard-working Observers. This get-together will be at 6:00 p.m. on January 11 at the Chico Women's Center.

Jan Dilg and Heather Quilici continue to prepare for our annual wine tasting extravaganza on April 23. This fund-raiser is especially important now as we seek ways to develop and maintain our new office at 635 Flume Street. The future of our League depends on strong organization and increased visibility. The other initiative in this area is our website. We are very grateful to Lenette Dornon for taking over the development and management of [www.lwvbuttecounty.org](http://www.lwvbuttecounty.org). Support your League and vote on November 8!

-Carol Burr, *President*

***Save the Date***

"Holiday Party"

When: Wednesday  
 December 14, 2005

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: Kristin Cooper-Carter's Home

The Mita Markland Award  
 will be presented.

The Holiday Party is a perfect occasion to bring friends and introduce them to The League!

Information:

Jan Cooley Dilg

e-mail [jcool524@aol.com](mailto:jcool524@aol.com)

We are looking forward to seeing everybody there!

**November 8, 2005 Special Election**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS...**

**NO ON PROPOSITION 73-- *Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy***

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and all parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, vulnerable teenagers who can't talk to their parents may resort to unsafe, illegal abortions.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 74--*Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.***

The League supports fair, rigorous, and effective teacher evaluation and tenure procedures. However, this measure raises questions of due process rights and may limit the use of dismissal for cause. It does nothing to encourage teachers to enter and remain in the profession.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 75--*Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirement.***

The League supports fair, even-handed campaign finance reform, but this measure is bad policy. It restricts public employee unions' use of member dues for political activity but has no similar constraint on corporations.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 76--*State Spending and School Funding Limits.***

This constitutional amendment changes the state's spending cap, increases the governor's power to make budget cuts, and revises the Proposition 98 minimum guarantees for state support of education. It reduces flexibility to address changing needs and will cause cuts in essential services. School funding will be permanently reduced by \$4 billion per year. Our system of checks and balances will be undermined by giving this and all future governors the power to make cuts unilaterally. This is not budget reform!

**NO ON PROPOSITION 77--*Redistricting.***

California needs to reform the way legislative and congressional district lines are drawn, but this flawed measure doesn't measure up. The makeup of its redistricting panel and its neglect of communities of interest in drawing plans are bad policy. This proposal calls for an immediate redistricting that would ignore three million new Californians, and it requires a cumbersome, wasteful ratification of every set of plans by the people.

**NO ON PROPOSITION 78--*Discounts on Prescription Drugs.***

There are two prescription drug initiatives on this ballot. Drug companies have contributed over \$50 million to support Proposition 78, an inferior program that depends on their voluntary participation.

**YES ON PROPOSITION 79--*Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.***

Proposition 79 offers deeper drug discounts to nearly twice as many Californians as Proposition 78. It has an enforcement mechanism to hold drug companies accountable for providing discounts.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in *PROP 80, Electric Service Providers. Regulation*, the LWVBC is remaining neutral on this initiative.

**BE AN ADVOCATE FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8**

**California Policy Institute  
Releases Initiative Analysis**

California Policy Institute of the University of Southern California (CPI of USC) recently released the results of its study of Propositions 73, 74, and 77 slated for the November ballot. Working through a grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, CPI identified the long-term fiscal, economic, and social impacts of these initiatives. A CPI analysis of Proposition 76 is also planned. Proposition 73, "Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy," seeks to mandate parental involvement in the pregnancy decision California Policy Institute Releases Initiative Analysis until 48 hours after parental notification, except in a medical emergency or if a court waived notification based on evidence of a minor's maturity or best interests. In addition, a parent could waive the waiting period. CPI found that most minors do involve parents in pregnancy decisions, and those who don't tend to be older and employed. Of the states that have adopted similar laws, CPI found little net change in birth rate among minors. They predict that Proposition 73 would not result in major changes in the number of abortions performed in California. The cost of implementing Proposition 73 could amount to several million dollars annually for physicians and the state for reporting and tracking data on the numbers of abortions offset by increased costs for health and social services to teenage mothers and children. Proposition 74, "Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal," seeks to improve K-12 education by increasing from two to five years the period before permanent status, or tenure, is granted to new teachers. CPI

found that the relationship between highly-qualified teachers and high-achieving students is supported by considerable research, but they found no data indicating the optimal length of length of time to obtain tenure. Nationwide, the probationary period for new teachers ranges from one to five years. The majority of states have adopted a three-year probationary period.

Proposition 74 also would modify state policy to enable school districts to dismiss tenured teachers after two consecutive unsatisfactory evaluations. Although evaluation standards are defined in the state education code, CPI notes that specific teacher evaluation processes are established at the local level. California, like most states, has collected no data on the training of evaluators, the efficacy of the systems used to assess teacher performance, or the number of teachers dismissed or resigning due to unsatisfactory performance evaluations. CPI predicts a shortfall between teacher supply and demand in the next decade, but given the scarcity of data on length of tenure and dismissal policies, could not comment on the long-term impacts of Proposition 74 on teacher supply or education quality. Proposition 77, "Redistricting," addresses the process by which state Senate, Assembly, Congressional, and Board of Equalization districts are drawn, to shift redistricting responsibility from the legislature to a new commission of retired judges. CPI's findings underscore the trade-offs implicit in any effort to missions. They found that protection of incumbents and bipartisan gerrymandering occurs even in states where commissions determine redistricting. Nonetheless, commissions are more likely to create competitive districts than legislatures.

CPI noted that unlike other states, California, under Proposition 77, would form a commission of retired judges selected randomly by lot, rather than appointment. Voters ultimately would approve or reject proposed redistricting plans. CPI cautions that under Proposition 77 some districts may become more competitive, but many may not change, owing to geographical boundaries, communities of interest, and the fact that some regions tend to have higher numbers of voters from one party or another. CPI predicts other potential effects if Proposition 77 results in a greater number of competitive districts. For example, candidates may focus on local rather than state issues to appeal to voters, legislators may become more moderate to appeal to a broader constituency, and fewer candidates would reflect very liberal or conservative views. The cost of the redistricting process under Proposition 77 would be reduced from the current \$3 million to \$1.5 million every ten years, assuming voters approve the plan submitted by the commission. If voters reject the plan, costs would be incurred as new commissions would then repeat the redistricting process until a plan is identified that is approved by voters. The USC California Policy Institute provides policymakers and the public with unbiased, research-based non-partisan analysis and information. The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund has partnered with CPI to deliver this information to a wide audience. Summaries of CPI's analysis of the propositions reported here as well as the full analyses, will be available at [www.lwvc.org](http://www.lwvc.org) and [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org). CPI researchers will discuss the results of their work in a free interactive Web-based

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

presentation in early October. Robbie Davis, LWVCEF Chair, will moderate the event. Copies of the research are available to League members at no charge. To request a copy, or for more information, contact Jill Kaiser Newcom, LWVC Executive Director, at 916442-7215.

## LEAGUE PRESENTATIONS

Leading up the November 8 Special Election, Jim Gregg is presenting the eight initiatives to nine groups in Butte and Tehama counties. Using the League's Pros and Cons publication and the League positions on the propositions, Jim is explaining the origin and intent of each initiative and why studies by the state League of Women Voters have led to its positions on some of these measures.

Invitations for League presentations have come from Retired Public Employee Association chapters in Redding, Chico, Paradise, and Oroville; Prime Timers at Chico State, the Chico Democratic Action Club, the Gridley American Association of University Women, and the Red Bluff chapter of Business and Professional Women. They have been well attended--30 to 60 per group--and positively received.

In addition, Jim has been invited by the Chico Rotary Club to discuss the updated state League study on the California Community College system. The Butte County League participated in this effort by analyzing Butte College

## Voting Rights

**Voting is a right which comes with citizenship. The state has the responsibility for making voting available to all those properly registered.**

**Address confidential:** You may have your residence address declared confidential upon order of a superior court or upon presentation of certification that you are a participant in the Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence and Stalking program (CA Election Code sections: 2166 and 2166.5). During the period when your address is confidential you will be required to vote by absentee ballot.

**Cassette:** You may request a cassette tape of the State Ballot pamphlet by ordering online or by calling 1-800-345-VOTE.

**Moved within 14 days:** If you are registered to vote in California and you moved within 14 days prior to an election you are entitled to vote in the precinct in which you are registered in that election only.

**Paid time off to vote:** Employees are eligible for paid time off from work for the purpose of voting only if they do not have sufficient time outside of working hours to vote. Voting hours are from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Employees can be given as much time as they need in order to vote, but a maximum of only two hours is paid. The employer may require advance notice if the employee wishes to take time off to vote.

**An accessible polling place:** If your polling place is accessible to the disabled there will be a symbol on the back cover of your sample ballot

(*Voter Information Pamphlet*). If your polling place is not accessible you may request to be assigned to another polling place that is accessible. Call your County Elections Official.

**Curbside voting:** Election officials at your polling place will bring voting materials to your car if you are unable to get into the polling place.

**Assistance:** You may have help filling out your voter registration application form. If you cannot write or cannot sign your name you may have someone fill out the form for you, but you must "sign" the application with a mark or a cross. The person helping you must sign their name and the date below your signature or your mark. If you cannot read the ballot or cannot mark the ballot you may choose two people (relatives, friends, poll workers) to mark your ballot for you at your direction. You may not choose your employer, your employer's agent, your labor union leader or agent. This is for your protection so that you may vote for whom you choose.

**Absentee voting:** You may request an absentee ballot from your County Elections Official and vote by mail.

**Early Voting:** You may vote at the office of the County Elections Official on election day and some days prior to election day.

**No babysitter :** If you cannot find babysitting for your children under the age of 13 they may go into the voting booth with you.

**In line at 8 p.m.:** If you are waiting in line to vote at 8 p.m. when the polls close you must be allowed to vote.

This information can be found at <http://ca.lwv.org/lwvc/edfund/elections/e3rights.html>

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
OF BUTTE COUNTY**

*P.O. Box 965 Chico, CA 95927  
530-895-VOTE*

NONPROFIT ORG. U.S. POSTAGE PAID CHICO, CA PERMIT NO. 221
-----------------------------------------------------------------------

# NOVEMBER 2005 VOTER

## **JOIN THE LEAGUE**

**League of Women Voters of Butte County**  
**P.O. Box 965**  
**Chico, CA 95927**  
**530-895-VOTE**

Founded in 1920, the League of Women Voters is a non-partisan political organization that encourages citizens to play an informed and active role in government. At the local, state and national levels, the League works to influence public policy through education and advocacy. Any person of voting age, male or female, may become a League member.

**Annual dues are \$50 for individuals, \$75 per household. If \$50 is prohibitive, please call Membership at 895-VOTE to arrange another option.**

Dues and contributions to the League of Women Voters are not tax-deductible, but contributions to the LWV Education Fund are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Don't forget to VOTE  
November 8th.**  
***Democracy  
depends on it!***