



The Voter

The League of Women Voters of Mendocino County

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January 2008
Susan Eveleth, Editor (707)937-3877

League Wraps Up Immigration Study

By Barbara Matheson

On Tuesday, January 8, our members will join members from around the country in discussing and answering the Immigration Study consensus questions. This is an important part of the study process and our answers will be considered along with those from other Leagues to form the National League's position on Immigration.

There are six questions for League members to consider covering topics such as: **What criteria should be included in federal immigration laws?** i.e. ethnic and cultural diversity, history of criminal activity, economic, business, service, and employment needs; **How should unauthorized immigrants currently in the U.S. be treated?** i.e. deported, assess fines before allowed to earn legal adjustment of status, some deported/some allowed to earn legal adjustment of status based on length of residence in the U.S.; **Federal immigration laws should provide an efficient, expeditious system for legal entry into the U.S. for what category of immigrant** i.e. students, those persecuted in home country, laborers; **How should immigration laws dealing with unauthorized immigrants be enforced?** i.e. physical barriers, increased patrols at entry points, verification of documents?

The above is only a sampling of the questions to be discussed. To view a complete set, including the discussion questions and background materials visit the National League's website at www.lwv.org and click on "Immigration Study".

Please Note: This meeting is being extended until 2 p.m. in order to allow plenty of time for discussion. Attendees should bring a sack lunch. The Committee will provide dessert and coffee. See the CALENDAR for more details.

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Presidential Primary to be February 5th

By Pat Dunbar, Voter Services

The holiday rush will barely be over when it's time to focus on another election! The presidential primary will be held on February 5, 2008. That means that you will receive your sample ballot just after the first of the new year, along with your absentee ballot, if you have permanent absentee status.

The ballot will include several statewide ballot measures, along with the primary candidates, so everyone should plan to vote, even if you do not have a party affiliation. There is also one local ballot measure, for the Willits Unified School District.

We have just received the written Pros and Cons paper from the state League; a copy is enclosed. We are planning a public workshop/discussion on these measures to be held on Saturday, January 12. The location is still to be determined, so watch the local papers for additional information.

Copies of the Pros and Cons will also be distributed to libraries, post offices, senior centers, etc., around the county, beginning right after January 1. If you have a suggestion for distribution locations, please let me know via email at pdunbar@mcn.org, or call me at 937-3409.

No changes in polling places are planned for the February election, but there will be a change in handling the ballots cast using the touchscreen machines. These votes will be transferred to paper ballots at the election office in Ukiah, and scanned along with all other ballots from that precinct.

Finally, we will again have information available on the Internet, via the League's Smart Voter website, www.smartvoter.org; ballot measures, candidates, polling places, calendars, deadlines and more are all there. Check it for yourself, and recommend it to friends!

2007 - 2008
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President's Message

Congratulations for finding the time during this busy season to read the Voter. I hope your holidays have been filled with family, friends, and love. During this season of giving to others, have you found time to give to yourself as well? My wish for you is that you take the time to do what brings you pleasure, renews your spirits, and brings you inner peace. The New Year is about to roar in, are you ready for the adventure? May 2008 be the best year ever for you.

Happy New Year

Carol Ann

The LWVC Positions on February 2008 Ballot Measures

The LWVC has announced its positions on the February 2008 ballot measures:

OPPOSE Proposition 91: Transportation Funds

This position reflects the continuing concern about funding earmarks in the state constitution, despite our support for the importance of transportation funding.

OPPOSE Proposition 92: Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees

This position was a difficult one, as we truly want to see reform of the community college system on the basis of our position adopted in 2003. However, we continue to have concerns about changes to the constitution that would further restrict the ability of the state to continue other important programs in the future. Proposition 92 would set up a designated funding structure without providing new funds and its provisions would be difficult to modify.

NEUTRAL Proposition 93: Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office

This initiative, by itself, makes relatively minor changes to the current term limit structure, and, without redistricting reform as part of a government reform package, does not achieve meaningful reform. It is moreover involved in an increasingly partisan campaign.

NO POSITION Propositions 94-97: Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts

The League has not studied the issues concerning Indian gaming compacts and therefore has taken no position on these measures.

The League's *Where We Stand* flyer is posted as a PDF on our Web site. Additional information about our action on ballot measures will be posted shortly. Please vote on February 5, 2008

Presidential Primaries in California (Part II)

By Barbara Auerbach

In March 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed legislation moving the state's Presidential Primary from June 2008 to February 5, 2008. This change in dates forces California's voters' attitudes from a wait and see state of mind, to a hurry up and act mode.

While you're thinking about whether you are ready to go to the polls for the Presidential Primaries on February 5, 2008, think about the following:

What is the significance of the February 5, 2008 primaries in California?

To date there are 22 states that will be holding primaries on "Super Duper" Tuesday, February 5, 2008: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado (caucuses), Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho (D), Illinois, Kansas (D), Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico (D), New York, North Dakota (caucuses), Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah.

It may well be that by February 6, 2008, nominees for the presidency will be chosen before many undecided voters have selected a candidate.

Candidates will not be able to stomp across 22 states to be in your face for Super Duper Tuesday. Instead the early primaries will lessen the time that voters have to sort out the candidates and the issues surrounding the presidency, and to determine which candidate has the ability to bring this country together.

On the other hand it gives states the opportunity to have a say in who the nominees should be.

The primaries in California used to be held in June. By that time many of the candidates have run out of steam and money. It takes a great deal of money and name recognition to run in large states like California and Florida.

Consequently voting in the primaries in California will be just as important as voting on election day in November.

You must be registered to vote in the primaries on February 5, 2008. If you are registered as a member of the American Independent, Democrat, Green, Libertarian, Peace and Freedom or Republican party you may not vote in the primaries for a candidate of another party unless you reregister as a member of the party of the candidate of your choice at least 15 days before you go to the poles.

"Decline to state" voters may vote Democrat or American Independent but must request the ballot of one of those political parties at the time of the presidential primaries. Otherwise you will be given a nonpartisan ballot.

California has 55 electoral votes, the most of any state in the nation. Make sure that they count. Vote!

Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

It is easy to join the League of Women Voters!

Membership is open to all men and women of voting age interested in a better government and more responsible, knowledgeable voters.

Mail this application and dues to:

*League of Women's Voters of Mendocino County
P.O. Box 1128, Fort Bragg, CA 95437*

Individual membership: \$45 per year two person household: \$70 per year

Membership Dues - Payable to LWVMC

Donation - Payable to LWVMC

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

**The League of Women Voters
of Mendocino County
P. O. Box 1128
Fort Bragg, CA 95437**

Happy Holidays

Calendar of Events

January 8 General Meeting 10:00 a.m.
 Location: St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg
 Program: Immigration - Discussion and Consensus
This meeting will go until 2 p.m.
Please bring sack lunch. Dessert and Coffee will be provided.

January 12 Public Workshop/Discussion on Ballot Measures
 Location: To be announced TBA

February 5 Presidential Primaries 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

February 12 General Meeting 9:30 a.m.
 Location: St. Michael's Church, Fort Bragg
 Program: Local Study - Special Districts

JANUARY 2008

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FEBRUARY 2008

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Websites of Interest

LWVMC www.mendo.ca.lwvnet.org
 Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org