



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area

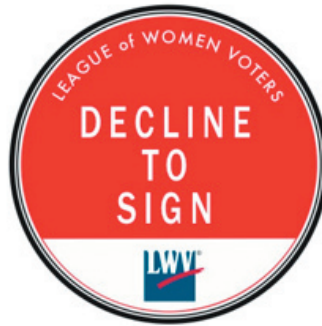


VOTER
October 2011

DECLINE TO SIGN

The League of Women Voters urges you not to sign petitions being circulated by groups challenging newly adopted state redistricting maps.

A group calling themselves Fairness and Accountability in Redistricting is collecting signatures to force referenda on the state Senate and Congressional maps drawn by the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.



This independent, nonpartisan commission drew new districts for Congress, the state legislature, and the Board of Equalization using fair, impartial criteria, in a process which gave maximum opportunity for public scrutiny and was out of the control of political parties and elected officials.

We urge you to join with the League and "Decline to Sign" the petitions that are currently circulating.

THE SUFFRAGE PARADE OF 2011 SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2ND, 11:30 AM TO 2 PM LAKESIDE PARK BANDSTAND, OAKLAND

In August of 1908 the California Republican Convention was held at Ebell Hall in Oakland. Over 300 women suffragists marched from the Oakland Hotel to Ebell Hall to advocate for a plank endorsing women's suffrage. The chair of the Convention moved for a vote of thanks, and the suffragists seated in the gallery shouted "We don't want your thanks, give us the ballot!"

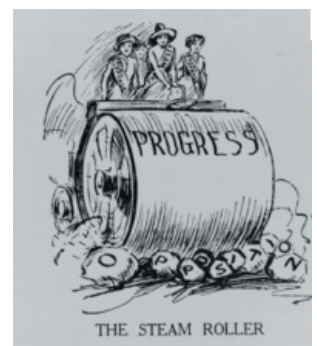
They were not successful, but it was the FIRST suffrage parade ever held in California. This parade of over 300 women re-energized the suffrage movement which led to the successful passage of the suffrage referendum in 1911, after the defeat of suffrage in 1896.

On the October 10, 1911 ballot was a suffrage referendum from the legislature and at least 8 other items. In the Bay Area only Berkeley voted in favor of suffrage. It was soundly defeated in San Francisco and Oakland, the two big cities in Bay Area Counties. By the time all the votes were counted the women won

the vote, but the area that put them in the winners' column were the farm counties. In San Francisco and Los Angeles the newspapers carried headlines announcing the defeat of suffrage again – a repeat of the 1896 referendum. Remarkably, a single vote in each precinct, just over 3,000, turned the tide for suffrage and by the end of the day, October 11th, the tallies were final and suffrage won.

This is an opportunity for Oakland to shine with pride by reenacting California's first suffrage parade. A number of organizations in Oakland are coming together to reenact the Suffrage Parade of 1908 on Sunday, October 2nd and they include LWV, AAUW, OHA, CLUW, ACLU, Girl Scouts of USA, and more. For information call 510.834.7640 or www.waterfrontaction.org/parade

Sandra Threlfall



THE STEAM ROLLER

LWVBA Natural Resources/Water Committee

Recent presentations included two major topics that had been requested by the group: managing land to reduce risk of damage by fire and integrated regional water management plans.



The first presentation was by Cheryl Miller, Executive Coordinator of the Diablo Fire Safe Council (see link below for her presentation). Cheryl gave some background on the Oakland Berkeley Hills Fires of

1924, 1990, and 1991. From these tragedies came the formation of the Hills Emergency Forum (agencies) and the Diablo Fire Safe Council (public/private and in Alameda and Contra Costa counties). Cheryl showed the group a model Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for Contra Costa County which was started in 2003, per federal legislation – required three things be included in each CWPP:

- * Collaboration: A CWPP must be collaboratively developed by local and state government representatives, in consultation with federal agencies and other interested parties.
- * Prioritized Fuel Reduction: A CWPP must identify and prioritize areas for hazardous fuel reduction treatments and recommend the types and methods of treatment that will protect one or more at-risk communities and essential infrastructure.
- * Treatment of Structural Ignitability: A CWPP must recommend measures that homeowners and communities can take to reduce the ignitability of structures throughout the area addressed by the plan.

Cheryl noted that Bay Area counties are establishing their own CWPP's (see link below), that Contra Costa County's plan has been completed, and that Alameda County's plan is in progress. Some cities are also inventorying hazards and preparing to improve their landscapes to reduce risk from fires.

California Fire Safe Council
www.firesafecouncil.org

Diablo Firesafe Council's
diablofiresafe.org

The second discussion item was presented by Brian Campbell, Senior Planning Engineer with EBMUD in the Bay Delta Consensus Team (see link for his presentation). Brian described how California and specifically the Bay Area is awarded grant money for integrated regional water management plans (IRWMP) via state propositions and then by region. Brian noted that compelling reasons for IRWMP are first, to improve water

supply reliability, to protect and improve water quality, to enhance sustainability through environmental stewardship, and to promote regional planning, collaboration and integration with financial incentives.

<http://bairwmp.org/>

Gail Schickele



LWVBA CALENDAR

IN South

September 8, 12:00 pm,

953 Industrial Ave. Suite 113, Palo Alto, CA 94303

IN North

October 26, 12:30 pm

1414 University Ave. Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94702

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9 am to 2 pm

Metro Center, 101 Eighth St. Oakland, CA 94607

HOUSING AND THE BAY AREA'S FUTURE

Three panels will look at the problems facing housing today including the implementation of SB 375, the sources and uses of public money and difficulties of community support.

Berkeley Women Vote:

Celebrating California Suffrage 1911-2011

*An Exhibit at the Berkeley History Center
September 18, 2011 through March 30, 2012
1931 Center Street - Berkeley, CA.*