

LWVBA VOTER
April 2007

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Update from the LWV of Bay Area: April 2007

Climate Protection Activities Update

LWVBA was a co-sponsor of a Rally in Redwood City on March 18 to Stop Global Warming and to encourage local governments to adopt the Cool Cities program.

Keynote speaker, Carl Pope, Executive Director of the Sierra Club was joined by presentations by Assemblyman Ira Ruskin, State Senator Joe Simitian, a minister from Sunnyvale representing the faith community, Carl Guardino, CEO of Silicon Valley Leadership, and Linda Craig, President LWV Bay Area.. We will be following up as cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara consider this issue. (I have attached my statement which you may use, we also have a letter that would be appropriate at the city level).

At the regional level, we are participating with the Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Communities to develop a public outreach campaign on the issue of Climate Change - what are the issues, and what can be done in the Bay Area by individuals, businesses, and others. A draft of comments on the potential role of regional agencies has been released by the Joint Policy Committee (www.abag.ca.gov/jointpolicy) who will consider a plan on Friday, May 18.

Bay Area Monitor April/May 2007 Issue includes articles on Climate Change, Truck Trade-ins at the Port, Regional Roundup on Bicycles and Bike to Work Day, Water Quality Control SF "Basin Plan" and the Regional Housing Needs Process.
www.bayareamonitor.org

Linda Craig, President
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
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LWVBA Presentation:

"Unite to Fight Global Warming" Rally

Sunday, March 18, 2007, Redwood City

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area is pleased to be part of the fight to Stop

Global Warming in the Bay Area, and particularly to be working with the Loma Prieta Chapter of the Sierra Club, and the many other distinguished organizations and elected officials that are part of this campaign.

Our League is a volunteer organization that encourages informed participation in government by voters through the information we provide about issues at election time, and our non-partisan candidate forums. We also focus on governmental policy decisions by studying important issues, and establishing positions which represent our grassroots member understanding of the issue and substantial member agreement.

Beginning around 1970, the League has studied issues of water quality, air quality, transportation, regional land use, energy conservation, waste reduction, and so forth. The current issue of global warming actually combines most of these issues within the global framework, and the solutions to global warming are those that we have been advocating for many years. In essence, we believe in conservation of natural resources with a view toward minimal or zero pollution, to the extent possible.

The League of Women Voters of the United States, our national organization, believes that global warming is one of the most serious threats to our environment, our health and our economy. We accept the recent scientific studies that prove that global warming is here now and is already causing environmental changes that will have significant economic and social impacts.

Last November our national League signed, with 21 other citizens groups, including the Sierra Club, the Citizens' Climate Policy: A Statement of Principles which calls for federal efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, promote clean and efficient sources of energy, and to commence these efforts immediately. (refer to our website: www.lwvbayarea.org)

In particular, this Policy seeks to:

1. Guarantee global warming pollution reductions, with enforceable deadlines.

Scientists say that we must begin to significantly reduce our emissions from today's levels. Coal-fired power plants are the largest single source of global warming pollution. Cars, trucks and SUVs run a close second.

2. Promote clean and efficient sources of energy.

We can start using a number of low- and zero-pollution options immediately. The cleanest, fastest, and safest way to move away from dangerous sources of energy is to use energy more efficiently in our homes and vehicles. Energy efficiency reduces pollution and saves consumers money. Renewable energies like wind, solar and cleanly-produced bio-fuels reduce pollution, reduce reliance on oil.

3. Immediate action is required. If we wait, it will be too late.

Last year, the League of Women Voters of California supported the passage of AB32 that

caps California's greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by 2020, and requires the Air Resources Board to establish a program for greenhouse gas emission reporting, monitoring and enforcement. We also supported SB 1368 (Perata) which requires that all new long-term energy contracts meet greenhouse gas standards.

We also affirm the need to immediately address global warming at a local level. We applaud the cities in San Mateo and Santa Clara counties who have signed the *U. S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement*, which calls for local municipal actions to reduce global warming by developing sustainability guidelines, auditing the energy-efficiency of City buildings, and implementing water-savings programs (which will prepare for possible droughts while also reducing the energy required to distribute water).

We call on these cities to take proactive steps to fulfill their obligation to the agreement.

We also encourage the remaining cities within these counties to adopt the Climate Protection Agreement and to do their part to solve this problem locally.

The League recognizes the great environmental and economic risks inherent in global warming. We also recognize that local action can help to limit its long-term effects.

Linda Craig, President
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

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Save these Dates Put them on your Calendar

LWVBA Meetings Dates 2006-2007

LWVBA Council

Saturday, May 5, 2007

Registration & Refreshments 9:30 am

Meeting 10:00 noon

Northbrae Community Church

941 The Alameda, Berkeley

The Council shall be composed of the directors of the LWVBA and two delegates from each local League, other non-voting members may also attend at the per League cost.

The Council shall give guidance to the board on program, methods of operation and budget as submitted by the board. The Council will adopt a budget for the fiscal year.

Registration: \$10 per League (no extra charge for additional attendees.)

To pay in advance, please send a \$10 check per League payable to LWVBA to:

Tamra Hege, 80 Florada Ave., Piedmont CA 94610

Please make reservations by Friday, April 27, 2007 by e-mail:

tamhege@aol.com if you chose to pay at the door on the day of the Council.

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Web Sites:

Bay Area Monitor: <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>

LWVC: <http://www.ca.lwv.org>

LWVBA: <http://www.lwvbayarea.org>

LWVUS: <http://www.lwv.org>

Smart Voter: <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Barbara Boxer: <http://boxer.senate.gov/>

Dianne Feinstein: <http://feinstein.senate.gov/>

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Barbara Boxer: senator@boxer.senate.gov

Dianne Feinstein: senator@feinstein.senate.gov

George W. Bush: president@whitehouse.gov

Arnold Schwarzenegger: Governor@Governor.ca.gov