

# VOTER

## President's Message

Barbara Murray

Hurricane Ike has certainly played havoc with all of our lives. I hope that you and yours have safely weathered the storm. For those of you who are dealing with the storm's aftermath, please know that my thoughts and prayers are with you.

### Voters Service Ongoing!

Despite the interruption of Hurricane Ike, the Bay Area League still found time to sponsor several voters service activities during this busy election period. We held 3 voter registration drives thanks to the leadership and organizational efforts of Chris Baker, Verva Densmore, and Sara Young. We had to cancel 2 drives due to Ike. You will be receiving a copy of the state *Voters Guide* later in October thanks to Elizabeth Glenn's timely order placed before Ike. Attached to this VOTER email is a *Voters Guide* in pdf format published by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS) for the presidential election. Feel free to circulate the guide among friends and co-workers.

Our League telephone will be answered by Elizabeth Glenn during the election season so that we can provide information to citizens with questions about the upcoming election.

Be on the lookout for absentee/early voting information that we will be sending out via email. We feel this may be an important consideration for those citizens displaced by Hurricane Ike.

### LWVUS Election Resources



I urge you to check out the League's VOTE411.org website. It contains a wealth of information... absentee voting, early voting, candidate information, election dates, etc. It's very easy to use and extremely well-organized.

The LWVUS website – [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org) - also has lots of useful information geared for the upcoming election. Just in time for the start of the Presidential debates, the LWVUS has released its “[Top 5 Tips for Debate Watchers](#).” Additional debate watching materials are available on the “[Debates 101](#)” page; including fun tips for hosting [debate-watching parties](#).

### Program Alert

You might think that our November discussion meeting topic will be election oriented. However, we decided to take a break from the election and focus on a different subject: wind and solar power in Texas. Please refer to the full article for more information. I hope to see you there.

## Excerpted from the LWV.org website:

“We are at last reaching the home stretch of an election season marked by unprecedented length, intensity, and civic excitement,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “As we move into these final weeks, it is absolutely critical for the media and community leaders to encourage voters to watch the presidential and vice-presidential debates, and consider these five tips for getting the most out of their experience.”

### TOP FIVE TIPS FOR DEBATE WATCHERS

1. **Think Ahead**—*Before the debate, ask yourself which issues are most important to you, and jot down what you'd like to learn from each of the candidates.*
2. **Are They Answering the Question?** *Pay attention to how the candidates answer the questions. Are they specific? Sincere? Knowledgeable?*
3. **Keep Track of Topics**—*Are the candidates being asked about your priority issues? Are the questions fair and pertinent?*
4. **Talk it out!** —*Afterwards, talk about the debate with your friends & family. Did the debate sway your decision? Did you learn something new about the candidates' positions?*
5. **VOTE on November 4<sup>th</sup>**. *It is your best opportunity to make your voice heard and help shape the issues that affect all of us! VISIT [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org) to prepare yourself.*

## WIND AND SOLAR POWER IN TEXAS

Saturday, November 1, 2008

9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

At the home of Diane Sheridan  
1107 Live Oak Lane, Kirby Woods, Taylor Lake Village

Texas generates more wind power than any other state, but is it reaching customers in the more populous parts of the state? Where do we stand in solar power generation?

On Saturday, November 1, Nelda Tuthill will speak informally with the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area about wind and solar power in Texas. This opportunity to expand our own understanding of public policy issues is open to League members and guests. We'll socialize from 9:30 – 10:00 a.m., then hear from Nelda and talk about wind and solar power from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. Hope to see you November 1.

Directions: Kirby Woods is off Kirby Road between NASA Road One and Red Bluff. From NASA One, turn onto Kirby at the Jack in the Box. Pass TLV City Hall and the water tower. Turn right at the Kirby Woods subdivision sign. When the short street ends, turn left onto Live Oak; 1107 will be on your left about three-fourths of the way down the block. There is a red fire hydrant and street light by the driveway. Questions? Diane Sheridan 281/326-5253 DBSheridan@aol.com

*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.*

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Hurricane Ike intervened before membership renewal letters were mailed to the many members whose dues are due at the end of September. Because of the storm, the LWV-BA board is delaying for a few weeks the annual mailing to members inviting them to renew their membership in the League. We understand that members may have immediate needs to address as they recover from the storm.

At the same time, the League needs income to carry out our election-related work, which the Presidential election makes particularly important. So an informal dues notice and form were e-mailed to many members, hoping they would be able to respond soon.

The League's mission remains vital. The Principles we stand on are what makes democracy work. The Bay Area League carries out the League mission by holding voter registration drives, distributing *Voters Guides*, sponsoring candidates forums, publishing a *Guide to Elected Officials* each biennium, and operating a Voter Information line--*all of which are nonpartisan*. Your local dues also support the work of the state and national levels of the League.

To improve our own understanding of public policy issues and to take part in state and national consensus to develop advocacy positions, the Bay Area League holds issue discussions for members and guests several times a year. As described in another article, on November 1, speaker Nelda Tuthill will provide a status report on wind and solar power in Texas. On January 24, we'll talk about voting procedures in Texas, a state study topic, and any need for change revealed during this year's elections.

*Whether you respond to the e-mail request or to the formal annual request to renew your membership, the League values your participation and your support of our efforts to make democracy work.*

Diane Sheridan, Membership Chair  
281-326-5253  
DBSheridan@aol.com

## Thanks to Houston Products Processing

Thanks to Houston Products Processing (HPP) for its recent donation to the LWV-Texas Education Fund in support of our nonpartisan voters service activities. HPP is an independent producer of recycled road construction products including base, cement-stabilized base, embankment and asphalt products. The company has been in continuous production of recycled materials since 1992, and now operates 13 plants in the Houston area. HPP is a member of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality organization *Clean Texas, Cleaner World*. By "harvesting" roads and airport tarmac slated for demolition, HPP has recycled more than 20 million tons, saving landfill space, disposal costs, and the use of virgin aggregate. Also reduced are greenhouse gases and oxides of nitrogen (NOx).

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## CALENDAR

### October 2008

- 6 Last day to register to vote before November 4 Election
- 16 Texas Conference for Women, Houston
- 20 Early Voting begins for November 4 Election
- 28 Last day to apply for ballot by mail for November 4 election
- 31 Early voting ends for November 4 Election

### November 2008

- 1 LWV-BA discussion meeting on wind and solar energy in Texas 9:30 am, home of Diane Sheridan

