

# *BAY AREA* VOTER

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League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

November-December 2010

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## President's Message

Barbara Murray

As Thanksgiving approaches, I thought I would begin my president's message by talking about some of the many League-related things I am thankful for...

- I am **thankful for all the members of the Bay Area League of Women Voters**. All of you support the League by just being a member. Numbers do matter! I am also grateful to those of you who have given your **time and talents** to League activities – staffing voter registration drives, assisting at candidates forums, distributing voters guides, and participating in discussion meetings. I am especially thankful to the **generosity of the many League members who have given money to the League** over and above their dues. Thank you for all that you do in helping to make democracy work.
- I am **thankful for Elizabeth Glenn** who has served on the Board as **Voter Editor for almost 30 years**. Thanks to Elizabeth, the Bay Area League has been able to communicate with our members through our monthly Voters. She has seen the Voter evolve from a cut and paste (literally) paper document to the electronic version of today that is emailed and published on the web. Elizabeth has decided to step down as Voter Editor, and I want to take this opportunity to publically thank her for the many years of dedicated service to the League. Fortunately for us, Elizabeth will continue on the Board as Publications Chair where she handles the ordering and distribution of Voters Guides and will oversee the production of the Bay Area Guide to Elected Officials this spring. (She also answers the League telephone!)
- I am also **thankful for the other fabulous women who serve on the board of directors** for the Bay Area League. All are bright, energetic, and busy women who carve out time for the League. I am pleased to report on some **changes in Board responsibilities**. Diane Sheridan, currently Membership and Program Chair will become the new Voter Editor. She will relinquish her role in Membership but will continue as Program Chair. Clara Hockstedler, currently serving as board assistant, will become the new Membership Chair. Thank you, Diane and Clara, for your flexibility in assuming new roles.
- It's hard to believe that 2010 is almost over! The League will kick back into action in January with a **discussion meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>** where we will revisit the issues surrounding hurricane-related flooding prevention measures including the status of the "Ike Dike".
- Since this is the last VOTER of 2010, I wish all of you a very joyous and blessed holiday season. I look forward to seeing you on January 29<sup>th</sup>!

## Join us January 29 for Galveston Bay Foundation Presentation on “Ike Dike” and Hurricane Surge Suppression

League members and their guests will gather for a discussion meeting on Saturday, January 29, 2011 to learn the status of hurricane surge suppression proposals, including the “Ike Dike.” Bob Stokes, President of the Galveston Bay Foundation, will also describe the environmental organization’s concerns and its suggestions for addressing surge issues. The meeting is a followup to the January 2010 presentation by Dan Seal of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, which coordinates the work of “Ike Dike” proponents.

From 9:30 – 10:00, we enjoy each other’s company and refreshments. The program begins at 10:00 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held at the home of Diane Sheridan, 1107 Live Oak in Taylor Lake Village.

### ***Proofreaders Needed!***

LWV-BA will be updating the *Guide to Elected Officials* in January. Elizabeth Glenn is compiling the names, addresses, telephone numbers, etc. and needs a few people to proofread one or more sections. If you have 1-2 hours to give, Elizabeth will provide details about what is needed. 281/482-1067 jjackcdy@aol.com



As part of celebrating the League’s 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the VOTER will be showcasing the League's accomplishments through the decades... a different decade for each month. The information about the 1960s is taken directly from the LWVUS website. You can click on the decade to go directly to the LWVUS website.



### **The 1960s**

#### **Organization:**

The 1966 convention redefined program as "those governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action." Membership reached a high point in 1969, with almost 157,000 members.

#### **Issues:**

In response to the growing civil rights crisis of the 1960s the League directed its energies to equality of opportunity and built a solid foundation of support for equal access to education, employment and housing. The League also supported presidential suffrage for the residents of Washington, DC. In 1969, the League was one of the first organizations calling for the United States to normalize relations with China.

## Audit Report

Nelda Tuthill, CPA, has audited the financial records of the League for 2007, 2008, and 2009 as per our bylaws. Her written report verifies that all books are in good order. Nelda serves on the Board of Directors of the Master Naturalist of the Bay Area. A special thank you goes to Verva Densmore, League treasurer extraordinaire, who keeps the books in pristine order.

## League Calendar

### January 2011

- 11 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature convenes
- 22 LWV-BA Board of Directors meets at 9:00 a.m. at home of Verva Densmore. Members welcome to attend.
- 29 LWV-BA discussion meeting on hurricane surge suppression, including "Ike Dike." From 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at home of Diane Sheridan



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.

[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)  
[www.lwvtexas.org](http://www.lwvtexas.org)  
[www.lwvtexas.org/local/bayarea](http://www.lwvtexas.org/local/bayarea)

## Legislative Interview Questions

Every two years prior to the new state legislative session, the LWV-Texas asks local Leagues to interview all state senators and house members from districts where there are Leagues chapters. The Bay Area League has been asked to interview state senator Mike Jackson. (We have interviewed him for the last several biennium.) Since the questions are an insight into the League's interests and priorities, we thought we would share them with you:

1. Given the projected shortfall for the upcoming legislative session, what, if any, revenue sources do you favor to cover the state's obligations? What new revenue sources would you consider?
2. What, if any, cuts in programs do you favor to balance the state's budget? What would you protect?
3. What changes would you like to see to increase transparency in legislative or other governmental activities?
4. Should the legislature do more to ensure transparency in the redistricting process? Please explain.
5. The US Supreme Court recently ruled that public perception of judicial independence could be affected by large campaign expenditures. Should Texas change the process for selecting judges or funding judicial races that makes it possible to run for office without soliciting large contributions? Please explain.
6. What are your legislative and fiscal goals for the 2011 session?