



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®

# the **VOTER**

League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County

\*\* SPECIAL EDITION \*\* Dec 2010

We are the  
 LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS,  
 an organization of  
 WOMEN AND MEN  
 who want to  
 MAKE A DIFFERENCE  
 in the political future  
 of our country.  
 We are a  
 DIVERSE, NON-PARTISAN  
 POLITICAL GROUP  
 with a longstanding tradition of  
 EDUCATING VOTERS.



## CALIFORNIA CRACK-UP: How reform broke the Golden State and how we can fix it

*A discussion by the book's authors, Joe Mathews and Mark Paul, at City Hall on November 17th, 2010*

*By Jo Turner*

The two authors of this book are both Journalists, but quite different — one young, one older — one a Northern Californian and the other from Southern California. Both came to the same conclusions about what ails California, how it happened and what can be done about it. They both spoke intelligently and knowledgeably about their subject. It was very informative and enlightening and even had some humor.

The worst thing about the present California fix is not the decline in it's public schools; the tuition hikes that make college unaffordable; the cuts to health programs and parks ; the overcrowded prisons; the billions in borrowing that will hurt future generations; etc. etc. etc. "No. The worst thing about California's fix is

that, under the state's current system of government, these problems can't be fixed." How did we get here?

The first Constitutional Convention was hastily held by miners patterned after Iowa's constitution and made no provision for taxes to pay for services. They depended upon borrowing.

This eventually led to amending the constitution which has almost become a habit. As our distrust of government grew, the initiative process also became a habit. We have survived because our problems have always been solved by our phenomenal growth and prosperity. But that is no longer

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## *President's Message* *by Joan Donahue*

*Dear Members and Friends of the League,*

*The 2010 November election has come and gone and while predictions concerning its ramifications continue, local League members can safely say that we fared pretty well.*

*California's Citizen's Redistricting Commission will continue its work, ground-breaking reforms to combat global warming will stay in place, and we have begun serious budgetary reform by changing passage of the budget to a simple majority.*

*However, the threat of corruption from big money in elections, largely through undisclosed donors, remains a major concern to League members across the nation.*

*I think we can agree that voters want election results to be based on their honestly held opinions, not on the results that big money can buy. But the Supreme Court's decision in Citizens United upended this assurance. How can individual voters compete with corporations and organizations that not only have vested interests in Washington, but can spend millions of dollars in secret to make sure those interests are protected? And what about the tenor and veracity of their messages - what effect is it having on our political discourse?*

*We hope you can join us for a lively League discussion about money and elections on Saturday, February 5th from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm. Please come prepared to share your thoughts and questions, and any action you believe we need to take to protect fair and transparent elections. The location of the meeting and brief background materials on the subject will follow in January.*

*We also hope you can join us at our next Board Meeting on January 17th at 6:30 pm at the YWCA to discuss Program Planning for the coming year. More information on the Program Planning process is in this issue.*

*And, of course, please plan to join us at Cask n' Cleaver on Saturday, December 11th from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm for our Annual Holiday Party! (Please see Page 5 for invitation and response information.) Entertainment will be provided by classical guitarist Rob Reynolds, we will have a fabulous raffle with lots of prizes, good food, and a great opportunity to get caught-up with fellow League members and friends.*

*Thank you for your membership in Riverside's League of Women Voters!*

*Board Members would like to wish you Happy Holidays and a Joyous and Peaceful New Year.*

## California Crack-Up Continued from Page 1

true (at least not in the foreseeable future). We also have survived by improvisation upon improvisation to try to fix things which has only resulted in unfunded mandates, constitutional hamstrings, and more legislative handcuffs which all guarantee legislative gridlock. It's no wonder the Legislature cannot pass a budget on time.

The authors pose three conditions that make our state government so very unmanageable.

1. Elections — Our elections are run on a majority vote. The coast is generally Democratic and the inland areas are generally Republican. For this reason we can fairly reliably predict the outcome of an election long before it takes place. The system has not adapted. We have the same number of legislators that we had 70 years ago even though we have tripled the number of residents.

2. Consensus — Until this last election, we've had super majority (2/3) requirements in much of our legislation making it almost impossible to reach any consensus and get any legislation passed.

3. Initiatives — Our initiative process is inflexible. Once an initiative receives the necessary number of signatures, it automatically goes on the ballot. In other states it goes to the Legislature first where it can be negotiated and maybe not even put on the ballot. Other states have provisions to amend an initiative.

The authors believe that the three systems must be changed and integrated so that they work together and then our state government can function effectively. They suggested that this could be done by establishing a Revision Commission to tackle these problems. They believe that things may get much worse before there is the will to deal with the problems. It may take a major catastrophe to bring about the necessary changes.

The book is exceedingly well written and poses many compelling ideas about our state government.

## PROGRAM PLANNING FOR LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CALIFORNIA - 2011-2013

In League, *Program* consists of the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action. At the State level, the program planning process begins with local Leagues and culminates in adoption of the LWVC Statewide program at our convention. This year's convention will be held May 13 - 15 in Ventura.

Were you concerned that the League didn't have a position on the "Top Two Primary" initiatives last June or the November initiative that would have legalized marijuana in California? If so, you may be interested in suggesting that LWVC needs to conduct a new study to form a position that addresses one of these issues or any other issue that concerns you.

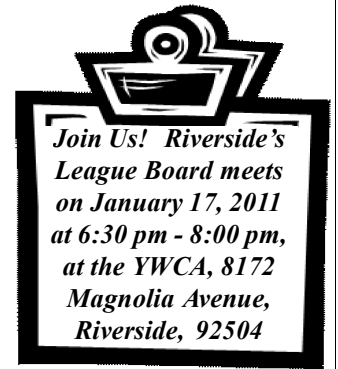
Program Planning is two fold:

1. Review the current LWVC positions and decide whether to retain, drop, study, or update any of the positions. Links to LWVC positions and our local positions are at [www.RiversideLeague.com](http://www.RiversideLeague.com)

2. Determine where you'd like the League focus to be for the next two years: possibly a new study is needed to form a new position or concerted community education needs to be focused on a current issue.

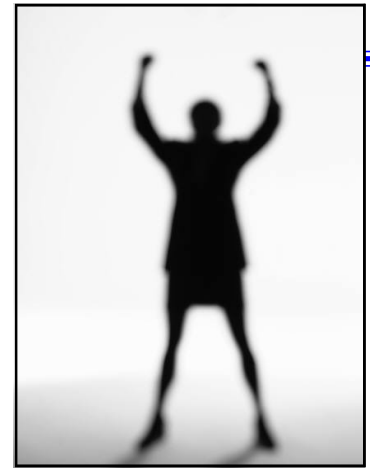
As a valued member of this grassroots organization, you have the **opportunity** to indicate the issues on which you believe the state League and all local Leagues in California should focus their time, talent, money, and reputation.

We hope you can attend our Riverside's League next Program Planning Meeting on Jan. 17th at 6:30 pm at Riverside's YWCA.



# CALIFORNIA WOMEN LEAD

*By Barbara Purvis*



California Women Lead is a non-partisan, nonprofit association dedicated to networking and leadership training for women who are interested in or who hold elected and appointed office in California. Founded in 1974, its mission is to inform elected and appointed women and encourage and train women to seek elected and appointed office. There are nine local chapters, including one in the Inland Empire. The website for California Women Lead is: [www.cawomenlead.org](http://www.cawomenlead.org).

On Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>, California Women Lead held a well attended breakfast at the Riverside Marriott in conjunction with the 2010 annual meeting of the California State Association of Counties being held at the Riverside Convention Center. Consequently, a number of women members of the Boards of Supervisors attended the breakfast. Not surprisingly, most of them were the only woman on their respective Boards.

Also in attendance were former Riverside City Councilwoman Maureen Kane; MJ Abraham, Executive Director of the Riverside Art Museum; Patricia Lock-Dawson, a League member and President of the Inland Empire Chapter of California Women Lead; and a number of women from the Riverside County Economic Development Agency.

One of the points mentioned was while a woman seeking appointive office would not apply for a position if she did not have all of the qualifications listed, a man would feel qualified and seek appointment if he only had one or two of the qualifications sought for that office. This led to a discussion of the nonpartisan California Women's State Appointment Project 2010 which seeks to encourage and recruit women to apply for an appointment to boards, commissions or agencies with the new gubernatorial administration. The goal of this project is to bring to the new governor and transition team the names and resumes of women interested in serving in the new administration to bring a significant pool of qualified women to serve as appointees. One of the women at the breakfast mentioned that when she complained that no women were being appointed to a commission, she was informed that no women had applied. The State Appointment Project 2010 seeks to remedy that problem.

The discussion included the different ways in which women lead from that of men. The men on a board or commission often look to the woman for the detailed information on an item. A woman is less confrontational than a man and seeks ways to resolve a problem while still maintaining her point of view.

The meeting was stimulating; the women impressive in their diversity and desire to better the community. So I joined California Women Lead.



The League of Women Voters of Northwest Riverside County  
invites you to attend the

# Annual Holiday Luncheon

Saturday, December 11

11:30am - 1:30pm

Cask 'N Cleaver Restaurant  
1333 University Avenue ~ Riverside



• Special Holiday Luncheon Menu •

~ Holiday Entertainment by classical guitarist Rob Reynolds ~

• Raffle Prizes •

*Raffle prizes wanted!*

*Please contact Theresa Birkett at [theresa.birkett@gmail.com](mailto:theresa.birkett@gmail.com), or (951) 712-6301.*

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*Please return this portion with your menu selection and luncheon payment. to  
Theresa Birkett, 8401 Newburgh Street, Riverside 92508. If you would like to pay at the door,  
contact Joan Donahue at [jedonahue@charter.net](mailto:jedonahue@charter.net) or (951) 686-0562 with your luncheon selection.  
Cancellations must be given 24 hours in advance.*

\$25 per person ~ RSVP to [jedonahue@charter.net](mailto:jedonahue@charter.net)

*All entrees include Caesar Salad, fresh bread and beverage.*

Teriyaki Chicken with pineapple salsa, served with rice

Charbroiled Shrimp with lemon butter and rice

Steak Sandwich with sauteed mushrooms and fries

Charbroiled Salmon with sundried tomato-basil vinaigrette and rice

Name \_\_\_\_\_



LEAGUE OF WOMEN  
VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA  
HAILS VOTERS'  
CONFIRMATION OF  
REDISTRICTING REFORM  
*Proposition 27 is Defeated*

On November 2, California voters decisively rejected Proposition 27 and the attempt to destroy the far-reaching redistricting reform passed by the voters in 2008.

The League of Women Voters hails the election result. Californians understood that Proposition 27 was a politicians' scheme to seize power from the voters and avoid accountability. They saw it for what it was, and stopped it dead in its tracks.

Proposition 20, which adds congressional redistricting to the work of the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission, also passed on November 2. The voters have spoken, and while the League opposed Proposition 20 as premature, we reaffirm our commitment to doing our utmost to make the redistricting process—now including congressional districts—to work well for the people of California.

The League remains committed to working with our partners in the government reform and voting rights communities to achieve the best possible implementation of the Citizens Redistricting Commission that Californians have so clearly stated they want. League members will continue to monitor the process, educate the public, and engage in grass roots efforts to empower communities and neighborhoods across the state to fully participate in all phases of the mapping process.

With this election behind us, it's time for the commission and all Californians to get to work and make redistricting reform a reality for California.

For more information, or to sign up for redistricting updates, visit the LWVC redistricting page at <http://lwvc.org/lwvc/issues/redistricting.html>.

HOW DID WE DO?  
LEAGUE'S BALLOT  
MEASURES  
RECOMMENDATIONS -  
NOVEMBER 2, 2010

*Prop 20 (Redistricting of Congressional Districts)*  
Passed 61.4% - League weakly opposed

*Prop 23 (Suspend Air Pollution Control Law AB 32)*  
Failed 61.5% - League opposed

*Prop 24 (Repeal Allowance of Lower Business Tax Liability)*  
Failed 58.4% - League supported

*Prop 25 (Simple majority to Pass State Budget)*  
Passed 54.8% - League supported

*Prop 26 (Two-Thirds Vote Required for Some State /Local Fees)*  
Passed 52.6% - League opposed

*Prop 27 (Eliminate State Redistricting Commission)*  
Failed 59.7% - League strongly opposed

LWVC remained neutral on **Proposition 21 (\$18 Vehicle License Fee for State Parks and Wildlife Programs)** and **Proposition 22 (State Government Prohibited from Taking Local Funds)**. We took no position on **Proposition 19 (Legalize and Regulate Marijuana)** because League positions do not cover the issues in Proposition 19.

Do you think we should have taken positions on these measures? If so, see the information about our next Program Planning meeting on page 3 and join us.



**WE WANT YOU!**  
**JOIN THE LEAGUE  
 OF WOMEN VOTERS  
 TODAY!**

**Join us at our Holiday Party on Saturday, December 11th at Cask and Cleaver and join then, or print this form and mail it to the address below.**

*In compliance with our non-profit status, donations to our Education Fund are tax deductible, while donations to our General Fund are not.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Dues (choose one): Single \$55: \_\_\_\_\_ [or] Family \$82.50: \_\_\_\_\_

General Fund donation (not tax deductible): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Education Fund donation (tax deductible): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form and your check payable to

**LWV Northwest Riverside County**

LWV Northwest Riverside County

P.O Box 20785

Riverside, CA 92516-0785

Visit [www.RiversideLeague.com](http://www.RiversideLeague.com) for more information

**LEAGUE 2010-11  
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**ABOUT LWV**

The League's purpose is to encourage citizens to take part in their government.

The League is interested in helping citizens become more informed and learn the many ways to influence government on state, national and local levels.

The League is a non-partisan organization that believes responsible government should be responsive to the will of the people, mindful that a democratic government depends on the informed and active participation of its citizens.



## LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS U.S.

### ACTION ALERT: PROTECT YOUR VOTE!

In this year's elections, secret money ran rampant. Corporations and unions were able to spend unlimited amounts, without having to disclose their expenditures, to support or oppose candidates. If we're going to scrub our democracy clean with a strong dose of transparency that eliminates this kind of spending in our elections then we need action before Congress calls it quits for 2010.

**TAKE ACTION AND SEND A CRITICALLY IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO YOUR SENATORS!**

There is a small window of time for Congress to pass the DISCLOSE Act in its "lame-duck" session that ends in just a few weeks. We, as concerned citizens, must take action to protect future elections. The DISCLOSE Act would empower voters by forcing groups bankrolled by anonymous donors to disclose the sources of their funding and their political spending.

Voters deserve to know who is paying for all election advertising. CEOs should have to "stand by their ads" with clear disclaimers.

It's easy to contact your Senators at [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org). Just click on 'Take Action' and enter your zip code at the Protect Your Vote Alert. Secret money has no place in our democracy!

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P.O. Box 20785  
Riverside, CA 92516

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:  
[WWW.RIVERSIDELEAGUE.COM](http://WWW.RIVERSIDELEAGUE.COM)