

BAY AREA

VOTER

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

November 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Barbara Murray

***Making Democracy Work* alert:** If you didn't take part in early voting, don't forget to vote this Tuesday, November 3rd! Proposed state Constitutional Amendments appear on all ballots. Citizens of Houston vote on mayoral and city council races.

***Making Democracy Work* thanks** to everyone who helped distribute almost 1,000 Voters Guides to area libraries, schools, and businesses.

I hope everyone who attended the **October discussion** on the proposed Constitutional Amendments enjoyed it as much as I did! Not only did I take pleasure in the lively discussion, but I also came away more informed about the amendments that are on the November 3rd ballot. If you have misplaced the Voters Guide that you received in the mail, you can view it online at the LWV-Texas website:

<http://www.lwvtexas.org/2009VG/2009CAVG%5BFINAL%5D.pdf>

Our next discussion meeting will be held on **November 14th**. It will be a concurrence meeting on the state study – ***Voting Procedures to Increase Voter Participation in Texas***. Our own Diane Sheridan played a key role in editing the *Facts and Issues* and producing one-page summaries of each of the study areas. Needless to say, we will have an inside track in understanding the background and issues surrounding this very interesting topic. I hope to see you there.

I don't want to "jinx" the **third discussion meeting** that we plan to hold early in 2010, but I will tell you that it covers a topic that is of interest to most of us that live around Galveston Bay and experience the threat of hurricanes. More to come....

In closing, I wish all of you a very **Happy Thanksgiving** as we enter the holiday season. I feel very blessed to be part of an almost 90 year old organization, founded by suffragists, whose mission continues to be relevant today:

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.

*Vote by Mail? Election Day Registration? Instant Runoff Voting?
Election Day Centralized Voting? Internet Voting?
Would they increase voter participation?*

***State League Concurrence on
Voting Procedures to Increase Voter Participation***

**Saturday, November 14
9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
at the home of Diane Sheridan**

On **November 14**, LWV-Bay Area members will take part in a state League concurrence that will engage all local Leagues in Texas in discussion of five *emerging voting procedures* and how effectively they would increase voter participation in the election process. Topics include vote by mail, election day registration, election day centralized voting, instant runoff voting, and Internet voting. Members will be asked whether they concur with a proposal that the state League support these procedures, whether they don't concur, or whether they could concur only if certain conditions were met. Each issue will be considered separately to allow members to support one but not the other.

Facts and Issues and *1-page summaries* of each topic are available now at http://www.lwvtexas.org/votingprocedures_study_members.htm. Whether you have time to read these interesting papers ahead of time or just review the handout at the November 14 meeting, we hope you will take part in what will surely be a stimulating discussion. If you cannot attend, you may send your input to Diane Sheridan by Friday the 13th, and we will share your thoughts as we discuss these issues.

Directions: KirbyWoods 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 KirbyWoods subdivision sign. From Red Bluff, turn south onto Kirby. Turn left at the KirbyWoods subdivision sign. This is KirbyWoods Drive. Take it till it 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 a street light by the driveway.

THANK YOU!

Kudos to Mary Anne Holcomb for rising to the “Dough for Dough” challenge. Mary Anne sent in 40-50 names! All were sent membership and general information about the League. We greatly appreciate the thought and effort she put into the list and we will make certain that she receives her home-baked goodie. And—it isn't too late for you to submit names for potential members or donors to help grow and fund your League.

Thanks to all who have renewed their memberships. Your membership is valued by the local League, the Texas LWV and LWVUS!

CALENDAR

November 2009

- 3 Uniform Election Day
- 14 **LWV-BA concurrence meeting** on Voting Procedures to Increase Voter Participation. Home of Diane Sheridan, 9:30-11.00 a.m.

December 2009

- 3 First day to file for place on primary ballot
- 5 **LWV-BA Board meeting, home of Leeann Morris, 9:00a.m.**
- 31 **LWV-BA VOTER deadline**