



SALINAS VALLEY VOTER

The League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley
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VOTE TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7



On The Occasion of This Historic Recall Election
 We Would Like to Dedicate This Issue To The Memory Of
NANCY LEE GETRIS
 April 14, 1932-September 6, 2003

For five years, Nancy faithfully delivered monthly supplies of registration materials to libraries, post offices, banks, title companies, and unions. She was a dedicated member of the League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley and we were most grateful for her volunteer services. We will all miss Nancy. Our sincere condolences to her family.

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Calendar of Events

DATE	TIME	PLACE	DESCRIPTION
Tues., 10/7	7am-8pm	Your polling place	Recall Election including Prop 53 & 54
Wed., 10/8	12pm lunch-1pm	Elks Lodge 150 Mar Vista Dr., Monterey	Candidates Forum: Monterey Penin. Water Mgmt Dist. Director Positions. Open to public. Reserv. required. www.mbay.net/~lwvmp/calendar.html
Tues., 11/4	7am-8pm	Your polling place	Election Day - Local Candidates
Sat., 11/15	9am-12 noon	Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, 24580 Silver Cloud Court, Monterey (off Hwy 68 near York School)	General Meeting & Legislator’s Roundtable: Invited: Senator Denham, Senator McPherson, Assemblymember Laird*, and Assemblymember Salinas*. Co-sponsor: League of Women Voters of the Monterey Peninsula (A map will be included in our November issue of the Voter.) *Have accepted invitation



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Correction

by League of Women Voters of California

Peter Camejo stated 9/24/03 on national television that the League of Women Voters of California was “excluding” him from further debates. Mr. Camejo has only achieved 2% of the voters. To qualify for the October 2 forum he needs 3%, and a threshold of 10% is needed for the October 4 forum. These qualifications were arrived at jointly by LWVC, LA Area Chamber of Commerce, and involved media, NBC, LA4, Telemundo, LA 36, and LA Cable Station, who are co-sponsoring the Los Angeles Debate, and further joint agreement by LWVC and the San Diego Union-Tribune, KPBS, and San Diego State University, who are co-sponsoring the San Diego Debate.

Board Briefs ...

... Reminder: You're welcome to come to **Board Meetings**, 6pm, October 17, 2003, when our tentative guests will be **Janet Barnes** and **Sergio Sanchez**, City Councilpersons for the City of Salinas.

.. The LWVSV “Kick-Off” General Meeting/BBQ on September 14 was a big success, with 64 people attending. **Drs. Baker** and **Stockton**, along with **Col. Simone**, were thought-provoking in their discussion of national and global security. A lively question and answer period followed.

... **Col. Simone**, Commandant of the Presidio, has generously offered a Presidio tour to any interested League members. Available times for tours: Monday-Friday from 9am to 4pm (groups of at least 4 people).

.... The **LWVSV Handbook** will be passed out to members at the General Meeting on November 15. See Calendar of Events on page 1 for meeting information.

... The League of Women Voters of the Salinas Valley wishes to extend a special thank you to the following: **Kalah Bumba**, **Phyllis Meurer**, and **Mary Haas** for contributions to the CURLEE FUND; **Linda Gin**, **Kalah Bumba**, and **Rosann Baldo** to the GENERAL FUND; and **Jane DiGiralomo** to the EDUCATION FUND.

On the Grapevine...

... Many thanks to all who helped at our first **General Meeting & BBQ** of 2003-04. Our biggest thanks to our hosts **Fred and Phyllis Meurer**, their son **David**, their foreign student **Otto Brandstetter**, and their friend **Deidra Lujan**.

... No President's Message this month. **Anne Herendeen** is up to her neck in her daughter's wedding and out-of-town visitors.

☆☆☆ HONORS PAGE ☆☆☆

This page is special and for STARS only.

*This special page honors 4 members of LWVSV and 1 member of LWVMP.
It also stars Anne Wheelis and the Teachers, whose classes benefit from participating.*

With all the upcoming elections -- 3 in the next 3 months -- the following people qualify as **STARS**. They have worked long hours, putting together election materials and distributing information. This was on very short notice because the **RECALL** was brought before the Court of Appeals several times. So it was only last Wednesday, September 26 that the **RECALL ELECTION** was on again. ALL of the following people moved with lightning speed to cover everything possible to do with the **RECALL**.

The **MOCK ELECTION** for our county school children will be completely online this time with 5 schools participating. October 1 and 2 are the dates set for this. We would love for all our League members to take a peak! <http://www.mockelection.org/> From here you go to recall and then you can see the ballots link. The schools each have a password, but they also have printable ballots that aren't password protected.

All of the following people deserve the grateful thanks of our memberships. We thank you very much and salute your dedication.



*Stephanie Loose, Voter Services Chair
Marlys Maher, an indefatigable volunteer
Florence Dallin, another indefatigable volunteer
Arlene Guest, LWVSV's biggest supporter of
MOCK ELECTIONS for children
Dennis Mar, LWVMP's biggest supporter of
MOCK ELECTIONS for children
Anne Wheelis, Coordinator for Monterey County
Office of Education*





PROS & CONS

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PROPOSITION 53: Funds Dedicated for State & Local Infrastructure

Should the California Constitution be amended to require specified percentages of General Fund revenues to be committed to pay-as-you-go infrastructure projects for state and local governments?

California has hundreds of billions of dollars invested in public infrastructure, including facilities and structures for water resources, transportation, higher education, natural resources, criminal justice, health services, and office space. The state provides funds for local infrastructure, including K-12 schools and community colleges, streets and roads, parks, water treatment, flood control, and jails. This infrastructure, from time to time, requires modernization or expansion. State infrastructure needs are estimated at \$54 billion over the next five years.

At present the only major dedicated revenues are for highways and mass transit. In the past five years the state has spent about \$2.3 billion annually on that infrastructure. Such projects use funds from general obligation bonds requiring voter approval, or lease-revenue bonds approved by the legislature and repaid out of rent payments. The state has spent about \$4.2 billion of bond proceeds annually over the past five years. Direct General Fund appropriations, called

“pay-as-you-go financing,” have totaled about \$275 million annually in the past five years.

Proposition 53 establishes an infrastructure investment fund and commits a percentage of the General Fund (GF) for “pay-as-you-go” infrastructure projects. It requires the Legislature to annually allocate funds -- 50% for state-owned projects, 50% for local government projects (other than schools and community colleges). It transfers 1% of GF revenues to the infrastructure fund starting with the 2006-07 fiscal year, and increases transfers to the fund annually over several years to a maximum of 3% of GF revenues. Transfers would be subject to increase, decrease, or suspension with revenue increases and decreases. If you read this call 7575845. There’s a prize. It also reduces the transfer rate if growth in the Proposition 98 school funding guarantee exceeds the percentage growth in revenue. Caps transfers so that total of transfers plus debt payment for bonds would not exceed 7.5% of revenue.

The amount of transfers from the GF to the infrastructure fund is hard to determine. The Legislative Analyst’s estimate for 2006-07 is \$850 million, increasing to several billion dollars when transfers reach the 3% maximum rate.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

The Legislature has failed to keep up with critical infrastructure needs such as highways, water systems, and universities. That is damaging both our economy and our quality of life.

Proposition 53 would meet those needs without raising taxes by requiring a stable pay-as-you-go system of infrastructure financing.

OPPONENTS SAY:

Less than 30% of the state budget is currently discretionary. Proposition 53 locks in spending increases out of limited existing revenues, meaning that the money will come at the expense of other important services such as education, health care and public safety.

It’s a blank check without oversight or guidelines, and will allow more pork barrel spending by the Legislature.

PROPOSITION 54: Classification by Race, Ethnicity, Color, or National

Should the California Constitution be amended to restrict state and local governments from “classifying” (collecting and using) information on an individual’s race, ethnicity, color, or national origin?

Currently, information relating to race, ethnicity, color, and national origin is collected by state and local government institutions on individuals for various purposes, all allowable by the state constitution. Much of the information collected is required by the federal government to assure compliance with federal nondiscrimination legislation and as a condition for receiving federal funds. The state constitution prohibits state and local government agencies from discriminating against or granting “preferential treatment” to any individual or group based on race, color, ethnicity or national origin in public employment, public education, and public contracting.

Proposition 54 prohibits the classifying (collection and use) of race-related information by state and local governments, effective January 1, 2005. The exceptions are: to comply with federal law; to remain eligible to receive federal monies; to comply with a court order in force as of 1/1/05; to allow law enforcement agencies to describe individuals; to place prisoners and assign undercover officers; to collect and use information related to medical

research subjects and patients; to allow the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to collect certain race-related data through 2014.

Race-related information could continue to be collected and used in areas other than public education, contracting, and employment if “classification” of those individuals is approved by a 2/3 majority of the Legislature and by the Governor as serving a compelling state interest.

For some current government activities, the effect of the measure is unknown and would depend on future interpretation of the measure’s language by courts and future actions by the Legislature.

State and local governments could experience minor one-time costs to modify forms and data collection systems. Minor annual savings might be experienced due to reduced data collection and use. Overall, no significant fiscal effect is expected.

SUPPORTERS SAY:

Labeling people by ancestry and racial background without knowledge/consent invades privacy. Government-imposed racial classifications have been used to divide people. We should stop categorizing and create a colorblind society.

California’s Constitution forbids state and local governments from discriminating against or granting preferential treatment based on race, so there is no need to classify people in this way.

OPPONENTS SAY:

Race-related data addresses disparities in public health, education, crime prevention, and civil rights. The exceptions leave open questions about the scope of the prohibitions, making legal challenges a certainty.

America is not close to being a colorblind society. We need to understand our differences in order to deal with them in a positive way.

REMINDER
Please check the location of your polling place -- many have been changed!

RECALL FACTS

A Quick History, Statistics, & Other Information

- ◆ Article 2, Sections 14-18 added to California's Constitution in 1911. Since then, there have been 31 attempts to place a recall election on a ballot. This is the first one to succeed.
- ◆ November 1994. Recall election law amended to consolidate recall and successor election at same time.
- ◆ 12% of the number who voted for the office in last election can, with permission of the state, offer signed petitions for a recall.
- ◆ In 1988, the Arizona governor came close to being recalled and the Nevada governor is currently involved in a recall challenge.
- ◆ If Gov. Davis is not recalled, his re-election expenses will be paid for by the State of California (otherwise known as "the taxpayers").
- ◆ The active electorate has shrunk as a share of the population. This makes petitioning for recall elections much easier. Only 7,476,000 (out of possible 15 million who were registered) voted in the last gubernatorial election.

Proposition 53

California's inventory of public works includes:

- ◆ 50,000 "lane miles" of highways
- ◆ 1,595 miles of levees
- ◆ 660 miles of canals and pipelines
- ◆ 9 toll bridges
- ◆ 32 lakes and reservoirs
- ◆ 33 prisons
- ◆ 8.5 million sq ft of state-owned office space

Membership Campaign SOARING Together

This is the second year of LWVUS' membership campaign. The Campaign runs Sept 11- Nov 15. Recent retirees are the recruitment goal for 2003. LWVUS would like each of us to commit to recruiting two new members. There are brochures and PowerPoint presentations available to help members recruit.

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California Election Helpful Websites*

Recall Information

☆☆☆☆☆ <http://www.igs.berkeley.edu/library/htRecall2003.html>
(this site is comprehensive)

☆☆☆ <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Proposition 53: (see first website listed above)

pro: <http://www.racialprivacy.org>

con: <http://www.informedcalifornia.org>

Proposition 54: (see first website listed above)

pro: <http://www.yeson53.org>

con: no website

Monterey County only: Register to vote online at:
www.mocovote.org

*Rating system ☆☆☆☆☆ (5 stars is the best rating)

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