

Nurses Votes Count!

Did you know that one out of three female voters is a NURSE!!! What clout we could have if we harness that political power and put it to work on the issues we face at work each day! State and Federal government play a major role in the development and implementation of laws addressing issues that nurses confront every day. These include safe staffing, health and safety in the workplace, mandatory overtime, and the paperwork requirements for each patient's chart. These issues are critical to the nursing profession and so is your vote. Here's how you can make a difference this year:

√ Each of us have elected officials who represent the residents in the

area we live in. They can propose changes to State and Federal laws to address our issues. This is an election year. Find out who the candidates are in your area and their positions on health care issues by contacting Project Vote-Smart at www.vote-smart.org or 1-888-VOTE-SMART. This free service is considered the best and easiest source in existence for abundant, accurate, unbiased, and useful information on candidates and issues.

√ Call or write to them and ask their position on the nursing shortage, nurse to patient ratios, mandatory overtime, health care funding or any other issue that is important to you. They are YOUR voice, your advo-

cate, and they WANT to hear from you.

√ If a candidate supports your issues-support them by volunteering in their campaign or making a financial contribution.

√ Support and assist NURSES and other Health Professionals who are running for elected offices. If elected, they can help educate other lawmakers on nursing and "health care issues" and be your voice at the decision-making table. Volunteer in their campaigns and make a financial contribution. Campaigns are expensive - even \$20 makes a difference

Overview of Ballot Measures from <http://www.smartvoter.org>

Proposition 19. Legalizes Marijuana Under CA But not Federal Law. Permits Local Governments to Regulate and Tax Commercial Production, Distribution, and Sale of Marijuana: Should CA legalize the possession and cultivation of marijuana for personal use of adults 21 years and older, and allow state and local governments to regulate and tax related commercial activities.

Proposition 20. Redistricting of Congressional Districts—State CA: Should the state Constitution be amended to have the Citizens Redistricting Commission redistrict for the U.S. House of Representatives, to change existing redistricting criteria, and to reduce the redistricting timeline?

Proposition 21. Establishes \$18 Annual Vehicle License Surcharge

to Help Fund State Parks and Wildlife Programs. Grants Surcharge Vehicles Free Admission to All State Parks: Should the state levy an additional annual \$18 vehicle license surcharge to provide funds to operate and maintain CA's state parks and wildlife protection programs?

Proposition 22. Prohibits the State From Borrowing or Taking Funds Used for Transportation, Redevelopment, Or Local Government Projects and Services: Should the CA Constitution be amended to prohibit the state, even during a severe fiscal hardship, from redirecting certain tax revenues dedicated to transportation or local government?

Proposition 23. Suspends Air Pollution Control Laws Requiring Major Polluters to Report and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions That

Cause Global Warming Until Unemployment Drops to 5.5% or Less for Full Year: Should the AB 32 air pollution control law be suspended until unemployment drops to 5.5 or less for a full year?

Proposition 25. Changes Legislative Vote Requirement to Pass Budget and Budget-Related Legislation From Two-Thirds to A Simple Majority. Retain Two-Thirds Vote Requirement for Taxes: Should the state Constitution be amended to allow passage of budget bills by a simple majority in each house of the state Legislature and should legislators be required to forfeit their pay if a budget is not passed on time?



Measure A



In 2001, Santa Clara County launched the nation's first universal health insurance program for children, known as the Children's Health Initiative. CHI simplified enrollment and outreach for existing public health programs (Medi-Cal and Healthy Families) and created a new local program, "Healthy Kids", to enroll all children who were not eligible for Medi-Cal or Healthy Families.

Unfortunately, after a decade of surviving on a patchwork of funding support for premiums, the sustainability of Healthy Kids is unraveling and without a new source of funding, thousands of children will lose health coverage.

In order to save Healthy Kids and prevent disenrollment, the Committee for Children's Health - a local coalition of health, business, community, and labor leaders - are supporting a county parcel tax measure that has been placed on the November ballot by the Board of Supervisors. The \$29 per parcel tax will generate \$13-\$14 million a year and will create a sustainable source of funding to ensure that all eligible children are enrolled.

Background on the Children's Health Initiative

Since CHI began, the program has been more successful than any of our local leaders would have envisioned:

- Enrollment and Outreach was increased; CHI has assisted more than 171,000 children in applying for Medi-Cal, Healthy Families, or Healthy Kids. At CHI's inception, one out of every eight children in our County was without health insurance. At the program's peak 97% of children in the county had medical, dental, and vision coverage.
- Healthy Kids leveraged additional federal/ state resources: Healthy Kids brought in \$24 million annually in new state and federal funding. Through a merged outreach and enrollment effort, Healthy Kids produced a significant increase in enrollment in Medi-Cal and Healthy Families. CHI school outreach also generated an additional \$6-\$7million annually for local school districts.
- Children perform better in school: Children enrolled in Healthy Kids reported a 50% decline in missed school days due to illness.
- Children are healthier: Once enrolled in Healthy Kids, children with a usual source of care al-

most doubled and children with unmet medical need dropped my more than half.

About Measure A

- Measure A will fully fund the Healthy Kids program and ensure that **ALL** eligible county children have access to health insurance including preventative healthcare services and early detection and treatment for such terrible illnesses as asthma or diabetes. It means immunizations, regular check-ups, helping prevent childhood obesity, and keeping children in school.
- Measure A will be limited to 10 years and require annual reporting to ensure all funds are spent appropriately.
- No funds from the measure can be spent on administrative salaries.
- National health reform impact: Although health reform will dramatically expand access to health coverage for adults, the legislation will not expand public programs for children. Therefore even after health reform implementation, there will still be a need to maintain the Healthy Kids program. Without Healthy Kids, these children will be uninsured.

Continued from page 1...CA Ballot Propositions

Proposition 26. Requires that Certain States and Local Fees Be Approved By Two-Thirds Vote. Fees Include Those That Address Adverse Impacts on Society Or the Environment Caused By Fee-Payer's Business:

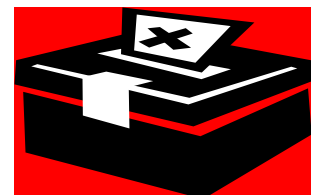
Should the CA Constitution be amended to require two-thirds vote approval for the imposition of certain

state and local fees that now require majority vote approval?

Proposition 27. Eliminates State Commission on Redistricting. Consolidates Authority for Redistricting With Elected Representatives:

Should the state Constitution and state laws be amended to eliminate the Citizens Redistricting Commission

established by voters in 2008, return all redistricting to the state Legislature, and change the redistricting criteria?



✓ Election Day is November 2nd

✓ Polls are open from 7AM to 8 PM

Vote-by-mail ballots can be mailed or dropped off at elections offices before Election Day

Jerry Brown

Meg Whitman

Economy

√ Has vowed not to raise taxes unless voter approved them
 √ Is interested in some structural reform in the tax system

√ Promises to rein in Sacramento spending, push for job-creating tax cuts –such as eliminating the capital gains tax and sales tax on factory equipment-and reduce regulations to promote job growth

Immigration

√ Supports immigration reform, including the so-called path to citizenship
 √ Opposes sanctuary cities
 √ Views the Arizona illegal immigration law as “legally problematic”

√ Opposes an Arizona-style law for CA empowering police to check legal status of suspected illegal immigrants
 √ Supports stronger border security
 √ Opposes “sanctuary cities”
 √ Proposes banning undocumented students from attending the University of CA, CA State University or community colleges

Gay Marriage

√ Had previously promised to defend Proposition 8, the same-sex marriage ban, in the courts before reversing his stance and saying gay marriage is a fundamental right.

√ Believes marriage should be between a man and a woman
 √ Favors civil union and domestic partnership laws for gay couples.

Health Care

√ Has pushed single-payer health care in the past
 √ Somewhat ambivalent toward Democratic healthcare reform law

√ Says providing access to affordable quality healthcare is admirable but must be done in a fiscally responsible manner
 √ Supports repeal of federal health care law passed this year

Education

√ Says he'll appoint educators to the State Board who agree that the teaching of “moral dimension” is as important as the “quadratic equation”

√ Proposes grading CA schools, largely based on test scores; under her plan, more money would be directed to the classroom and parents could convert any “F” school to a charter

Abortion

√ Has said he is personally opposed to abortion
 √ Has consistently vowed to uphold the right of women to choose

√ Supports abortion rights, but says late-term abortions should be banned except when the health of the mother is threatened
 √ Wouldn't fight 1981 CA Supreme Court decisions requiring Medi-Cal to fund abortions

Environment

√ Supports implementation of state's greenhouse gas rules, known as AB 32
 √ Opposes Proposition 23, the ballot measure that would suspend AB 32, until CA's unemployment levels drops to 5.5 percent for more than a year.

√ Supported passage of the water bond that was removed from the November ballot
 √ Has called for a one-year moratorium on most rules regulating greenhouse gas emissions until impact on jobs can be fully analyzed
 Opposes Proposition 23

Candidates for U.S. Senate (Info Mercury News 10/13/10)

Barbara Boxer

Carly Fiorina

The Economy

- √ Opposed the Bush Tax cuts
- √ Voted for the economic stimulus package, which she argues prevented a much steeper recession
- √ Proposed a tax on bonuses of Wall Street Executives at firms that received a government bailout

- √ Signed a pledge not to raise taxes and favors tax cuts for businesses to stimulate the economy
- √ Says the federal stimulus bill was a waste of taxpayer dollars
- √ Has criticized the Wall Street bailouts

Immigration

- √ In 2007, voted against an immigration policy overhaul because of a labor opposed guest worker program she said would lead to "exploitation," later, voted for the bill because of other provisions she favored (the bill ultimately died)
- √ Favors a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants

- √ Supports Arizona's law, saying the state acted because the federal government has not adequately secured its borders
- √ Calls for a "guest-worker program that works"
- √ Declines to take a position on allowing illegal immigrants to become citizens, saying the U.S. must first secure its borders

Gay Marriage

- √ Opposed Proposition 8

- √ Voted for Proposition 8, but favors domestic partnership rights

Health Care

- √ Voted for the Democratic health care reform law

- √ Has signed a pledge vowing to repeal Democratic health care reform law
- √ Favors market-based solutions to lower costs and extend insurance to more people
- √ Says the government should create a high-risk pool for people who can't obtain insurance because of pre-existing conditions

Education

- √ Has supported increased federal funding for early education, after-school programs and Pell Grants
- √ Supported the No Child Left Behind Act but later complained it was unfunded

- √ Does not favor more federal spending on schools
- √ Says families need more choice in schools and that students need to be held to high academic standards

Abortion

- √ Staunch, longtime supporter of abortion rights

- √ Opposes abortion rights but says she would not make that view a litmus test for Supreme Court nominees

Environment

- √ Author of a "cap and trade" bill to combat global warming by putting a price on carbon emissions.
- √ Called for a permanent federal ban on oil drilling off the West Coast

- √ Favors Proposition 23
- √ Opposes Boxer's "cap and trade" bill to combat global bill
- √ Says the government should provide tax incentives to encourage clean energy research and manufacturing
- √ Favors oil drilling off the CA coast as long as environmentally sound methods are used; respect residents' opposition

Measure A. Santa Clara County Children's Health Protection (parcel tax—2/3 Approval required):

To protect and maintain children's health and prevent serious illness through regular medical check-ups, immunizations, and early detection; to reduce costs from unnecessary emergency room use; and to prevent elimination of insurance coverage for low income children of working families; shall Santa Clara County enact \$29.00 annual parcel tax; limited to 10 years; with independent citizens oversight, full public disclosure of all spending, and subject to audits?

Measure B. Traffic Congestion Relief and Road Improvement Measure:

To repair potholes, repave and maintain local streets, improve traffic flow on local roads; increase Santa Clara County's share of state/federal matching funds; improve safety; and pay for other congestion and pollution mitigation projects; shall the motor vehicle registration fee be increased \$10.00 for each vehicle registered in Santa Clara County; thereby relieving traffic

congestion, improving streets and reducing polluted, toxic roadway runoff which contaminated water supplies, with all revenues to remain in Santa Clara County.

Measure C. Term Limits:

Shall an ordinance of the Santa Clara Valley Water District limiting Board members' terms, whether elected or appointed after the established effective date, from serving more than three successive 4-year terms; which sets forth the effect of partial terms; and which establishes an effective date of December 3, 2010, to be approved?

Measure U. Marijuana Business Tax:

In order to provide funding for essential City services such as police, fire, emergency response, street maintenance, pothole repair, parks, libraries and youth and senior programs, shall an ordinance be adopted to impose a tax at a rate of up to 10% of gross receipts on marijuana businesses in San Jose, subject to existing independent financial audits, with all reve-

nue controlled by the City?

Measure V. Binding Arbitration

To provide fiscal stability, control costs and maintain City services to residents, shall the Charter be amended to permit binding arbitration only if arbitrators are (1) required to base awards to employees primarily on the City's ability to pay; and (2) prohibited from; creating any unfunded liability for the City, increasing police and firefighter compensation more than the rate of increase in General Fund revenues, or granting retroactive benefits?

Measure W. Pension Reform

To provide fiscal stability, control costs and maintain City Services to residents, shall the Charter be amended to allow the Council, by ordinance and subject to the requirement of applicable law, to exclude any officer or employee hired on or after the ordinance's effective date from any retirement plan or benefit of any plan then in existence and to require that any new or different plan shall be actuarially sound?

SCC Board of Supervisors District 1 Open Seat

Two candidates are vying for a seat on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors. Voters from District 1 which covers unincorporated South County and portions of San Jose, Los Gatos, Morgan Hill and Gilroy will decide between two candidates, Forrest Williams, a former San Jose City Councilman and Mike Wasserman a former two term Los Gatos mayor.

RNPA interviewed both candidates in the June Primary for the November General Election. The RNPA-Political Action Committee decided not to make a formal endorsement. PAC members believed that both candidates are qualified. Both candidates support Measure A, Children's Health Protection Measure.



Both candidates are in support of enforcing the nurse-to-patient ratios and since our primary interview both candidates seemed to learn more about the Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System and how it is operated. Mike Wasserman's top priorities if elected are to use his experience as a successful business owner to help business grow and create jobs, put his background as a certified Financial Planner to work fixing the budget without new taxes, and utilize his history as an effective local Mayor to protect vital services, and improve efficiencies and keep families safe. Forrest William's top priorities if elected are to work to save and create jobs in Santa Clara County, improve efficiency of County Government and, activate Santa Clara County assets to generate revenue. This is an important position. It is the Board of Supervisors who approves funding for Santa Clara Valley Health and Hospital System as well as approves RNPA's contract after it is ratified by the membership. Make sure you cast your ballot!

Receiving Less Pay, Working Longer Hours— The Truth about CA State Workers



like whack-a-mole.

Columnist David Brooks recently penned an op-ed railing against public sector compensation, asserting that "governments can't promote future prosperity because they are strangling on their own self-indulgence."

At the epicenter of this debate is California, with its massive budget problems and legislative gridlock. Not surprisingly, pundits have lined up their attacks here on public sector employees. Michelle Malkin invited her readers to "compare their salary to a California state employee." The Wall Street Journal published an op-ed by Steven Greenhut entitled "Public Employee Unions Are Sinking California." Greenhut's organization is funded by corporations like Chevron, Exxon

Debunking the myths of public employee compensation is beginning to feel a bit

Mobil and Pfizer, while Malkin's site is supported by advertising from groups like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Well, now we've got some facts. The University of California Berkley's Center on Wage and Employment Dynamics found that **California public employees actually receive less pay and work longer hours than their private sector counterparts**. And when you factor in those controversial retirement benefits, public employees with a higher education still earn less than they would in the private sector. The Center reports:

"[The] wages and total compensation received by public sector workers at higher levels of education are less than comparable workers in the private sector. The relatively better benefits received by educated public sector workers are not enough to compen-

sate for the pay difference. For example, government workers with a Bachelors degree earn on average 14% less than similarly educated workers in the private sector. When considering total compensation, these public-sector workers still receive 5% less."

We're in the midst of tough economic times, and everyone is looking for answers. *How do we balance the budget? Where do we find the funds for vital public services? And finally, who's to blame for this mess?*

We hear an awful lot about public sector employees. **But it's a red herring**. It's meant to distract you from the powerful forces behind our economic instability. The small percentage who've grown wealthy from destabilizing the economy, selling bad mortgages, and sending jobs overseas. **Let's stop blaming public services, and take our economy back.**

RNPA Elections Time

It is election time for RNPA Board of Directors. There are 6 positions open:

- Vice President
- Negotiating Team Member
- Secretary
- Continuing Education
- Treasurer
- Area Representative Chair

Ballots will be mailed to members' homes by Monday, November 15, 2010. Returned ballots must be postmarked by Monday, December 13, 2010. If you do not receive a ballot, please contact the RNPA office, 292-6061.

Ballots will then be counted and the results will be announced to the membership. **Remember every vote counts!!!**