



# THE VOTER

OCTOBER 2010

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Photo from RalstonFlash.com

## WHAT BALLOT QUESTIONS? Jon Ralston, Noted Columnist

**CANDIDATE NIGHT**  
Tuesday  
OCTOBER 5TH  
6 to 10 p.m.

Italian American Club  
2333 E. Sahara  
Come and get acquainted  
with  
The candidates.

FREE ADMISSION  
Donations appreciated  
\*\*\*\*\*

Early Voting  
Oct 16 - Oct 29  
General Election  
Tuesday, Nov. 2

### LWVLVV OFFICERS 2010-2011

- President: Sandy Metcalf
- 1st. VP: Sam King
- 2nd VP: Jan Biggerstaff
- Secretary: Ann Marie Smith
- Treasurer: Lyell Metcalf
- Directors: Beverly Abderrahman
- Teresa Bell
- Freda Greenfield
- Betty Pardo

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16**

**THE LAS VEGAS SOCIAL CLUB**  
ADJACENT TO  
**MAIN STREET STATION**  
200 N. Main at Main & Stewart  
9:00 a.m.—10:00 a.m.  
SOCIAL & BREAKFAST  
10:00 A.M. PROGRAM

**PLEASE NOTE NEW CHARGES**  
BREAKFAST \$20 with reservation  
Admittance \$5.00  
(included in breakfast charge)

**Phone: 702-464-7887**

E-mail: [lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lwv@lwvlasvegasvalley.org)

**Reservations by Wednesday, October 13, 2010**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *By: Sandy Metcalf*

"What we're saying today is that you're either part of the solution or you're part of the problem". *Eldridge Cleaver -1935*

Be part of the solution by reading your **Voter Guide** (put out by the League), listening to the candidates, attending our meetings and others to learn about the issues, and then going to VOTE! It is amazing to me that so many people choose to be part of the problem by not taking the time to vote. They purposefully choose not to be part of the solution. I choose solutions--how about you?

**OCTOBER SPEAKER JON RALSTON**

Mr. Ralston hails from Buffalo, NY. He received a B.A. in English from Cornell University in 1981 and a M.A. in Journalism from the University of Michigan in 1983. Jon came to Las Vegas in 1984 as a night reporter for the Las Vegas Review-Journal. He later covered general assignment and county government before becoming a political reporter in 1986. Jon became a full-time political columnist in January 1989.

Jon began publishing The Ralston Report, a statewide political newsletter, in January 1993. Until late 1999, he was freelancing columns to the Review Journal and doing commentary for Channel 8. In July 1998, he began a daily newsletter sent by e-mail to subscribers.

In December 1999, Jon sold his newsletter and signed an agreement to work for the Greenspun Media Group. He now heads up a daily e-mail publication called Flash while writing columns for the *Las Vegas Sun* and *In Business Las Vegas*. He hosts a daily public affairs show on *KSNV Channel 3* called Face to Face with Jon Ralston. In 2000, he had a book published on Nevada politics published called *The Anointed One*.

Jon won Outstanding Young Journalist of the Year in 1986 and Best Columnist of the Year in 1991, 1992. In the years 2000, 2002, 2003, 2005 and 2007 he won Best Non-Staff Columnist from the Nevada State Press Association. Jon has won two Electronic Media Awards for Face to Face.

*From My News 3 website*



**STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *By: Sam King*

The LWVNV is gearing up for the 2010 elections. Local Leagues have been hosting candidate 'Forums' and 'Meet and Greets' and partnering with organizations to help voters gather as much information as possible on candidates and issues.

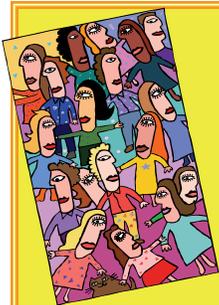
The 2011 Legislature will face fiscal decisions about the direction our state will take over the next two years. Census figures are being calculated, as constitutionally required; re-apportionment will determine voting districts based upon our most current demographics.

The recession has been difficult globally; however, Nevada has been hit especially hard and our unemployment numbers are through the roof. Nevada needs job and business creation more than ever before. Renewable energy seems to be the ticket to job creation. I attended the National Clean Energy Summit- Investing in American Jobs, held in Las Vegas on September 7, 2010. There is hope that clean energy will benefit Nevada. Nevertheless, our infrastructure and systems of education and social services are facing budget cuts, and quality-of-life issues, lower the chances of attracting investment and industry to our state.

This election season is not simply a midterm election - it is critical for Nevadans. Electing qualified officials is our civic right and duty. Nevadans must vote for candidates who will represent Nevadans in Carson City and in Washington D.C., those best qualified as the voice for Nevada. On the ballot, there are also four ballot questions to consider. (See page 5). All local Leagues are helping to register voters.

Education K-20 is facing budget cuts at the same time Nevada needs to innovate in order to meet the needs of the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century so our state can shovel out of the economic situation holding Nevada hostage to recovery. Clark County School District will have a new Superintendent when Dr. Rulfes retires. Whoever becomes the next Superintendent for Clark County will have tremendous challenges.

Thank you for all you do.



**CANDIDATE NIGHT**

**Tuesday**

**OCTOBER 5TH**

**6 to 10 p.m.**

**Italian American Club**

**2333 E. Sahara**

**FREE**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**No speeches**

**Ask questions**

**Be an informed Voter!**

**CANDIDATE ELECTION DEBATES:  
PBS CHANNEL 10**

**Governor: Rory Reid & Brian Sandoval -**

**Thurs. Oct 7 6 p.m.**

**Senate: Sharron Angle & Harry Reid -**

**Thurs. Oct 14 6 p.m.**

**Congressional District 3: Dina Titus & John Heck**

**Thurs. Oct 14 8 p.m.**

*Check out our League's  
Voter Guide online at  
[www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org](http://www.lwvlasvegasvalley.org)*



**MINUTES:** *By: Ann Marie Smith, Secretary*

Minutes to the September 18, 2010 General Meeting  
Main Street Station

League President Sandy Metcalf called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. She announced that the League is sponsoring a Candidate's Night on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the Italian American Club on East Sahara from 6 pm to 10 pm. On October 16<sup>th</sup>, at our General Meeting, the speaker will be columnist Jon Ralston, speaking on ballot questions.

Ms. Metcalf thanked the volunteers who worked on the Voter Guide and the new website, and thanked Harrah's for providing the funding for the Voter Guide.

Ann Marie Smith announced that the Health Committee would be meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at Borders Bookstore in Town Square at 5:30 pm. New members are welcome to attend. There will be no meeting in October.

Sam King introduced Marlene Adrian of Women of Diversity Productions. They are creating a virtual compilation of women in Nevada, and the first section will be Women Honored in 2010. League Member Ruth Annette Mills will be among those honored.

Ms. Metcalf asked all candidates present to introduce themselves and thanked them for attending. She then introduced speaker Cam Ferenbach, President, State Bar of Nevada, to speak on Ballot Question 1, regarding Merit Selection of Judges.

Mr. Ferenbach recommended that everyone go to the website for the State Bar, [www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org), and link to Senate Joint Resolution 2, a proposed constitutional resolution. The intention of the resolution is to increase the quality and qualifications of judges, to ensure that they are chosen in a fair and impartial manner, uninfluenced by campaign contributions. The idea that this will take away our vote is inaccurate. It will reduce the impression of impropriety due to the fact that candidates currently solicit funds from lawyers who may at some point appear before them in court. The proposed new system is based on the Arizona model. It will do away with the need to raise money from wealthy companies, thus creating the impression of "paying to get a fair hearing." While this is not true, the impression remains. Each case must be decided on the facts. SJR 2 will add § 22 to Art. 6 of the Nevada Constitution. There is currently a mechanism in place for appointing judges when a seat is unfilled between elections. This amendment will build on that process to include all Supreme Court Justices and the District Court Judges.

If the new resolution passes, candidates who wish to run, including all judges whose terms end on or after 12/31/2011, must first be reviewed by a commission on judicial performance. The commission will then publish a report at least 6 weeks before the general election.

The candidates who are then approved to run in the general election will have to receive 55% of the vote in order to gain the seat or remain in office. The commission will be made up of the Chief Justice, two members of the State Bar of Nevada and two non-lawyers appointed by the Governor. For more information, go to [www.nvbar.org](http://www.nvbar.org) and [www.morequalifiedjudges.com](http://www.morequalifiedjudges.com).



Photos by Sam King

Mr. Ferenbach concluded with the comment that this does involve changing the Nevada Constitution, but the time has come.

A question-and-answer period followed. Ms. Metcalf thanked Mr. Ferenbach and presented him with a League mug. Applications were handed out for the event on Tuesday, September 21, featuring the Hon. Sandra Day O'Connor, on the subject of Selecting Nevada's Judges: Protecting Impartiality and Ensuring Accountability. The event is free, but registration is required.

After the drawing for the gift basket, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

**CANDIDATE ELECTION DEBATES: PBS CHANNEL 10**

**Governor: Rory Reid & Brian Sandoval -Thurs. Oct 7 6 p.m.**

**Senate: Sharron Angle & Harry Reid - Thurs. Oct 14 6 p.m.**

**Congressional District 3: Dina Titus & John Heck Oct 14 8 p.m.**

The Nevada Secretary of State's website is a great resource for all things election. With early voting coming up in just a few weeks, you may wish to go ahead and start doing your homework now on the initiatives that will be on the ballot. Information can be found on the [Nevada Secretary of State](http://Nevada Secretary of State website) website. You may also wish to check out the [2010 Initiative and Referendum Guide](http://2010 Initiative and Referendum Guide). Early voting takes place from October 16, 2010 - October 29.

**POLL WORKERS NEEDED - phone 455-2815**  
**Clark County Election Department**  
**Early Voting \$8 hr \* Election Day \$120**

**BE INFORMED!** Read, ask questions, think and VOTE!!



**WHAT DO OUR \$55 YEARLY DUES PAY FOR?**

National Dues (per member)	\$29.70 (to increase in 2011)
State Dues (per member)	11.00
Local Dues (what's left)	14.30

The local yearly dues of \$14.30 pays for a monthly answering service, a post office box, a website, mailings, insurance, brochures, newsletters and office supplies. All the work and effort to keep the LWVLVV relevant is donated by our active members. A complete budget is always included in our April Annual Manual.

**MONTHLY MEETING ROOM CHARGES  
(MAIN STREET STATION)**

Minimum meeting charge	\$576.00 (or \$18 per person)
Microphones (\$10 ea)	20.00
Speaker (each) breakfast & mug	30.00

We are charged for each plate or cup used.

**LOBBY FUND**

Our Lobby Fund enables us to communicate our issues and programs to the Legislature. Our State League President Sam King will be our 2011 lobbyist at a considerable savings this year, however we are starting out with only \$13 in the fund. Transportation, brochures, and occasional room charges for our lobbyist will be paid from this fund. Any donations toward this endeavor not only support League but the many issues that are relevant to the citizens of Nevada.

**ENVIRONMENT:**

Gold Butte Country offers diverse opportunities for exploration and recreation. The tri-state area has grown and Gold Butte Country has been discovered. Everyone wants an opportunity to enjoy the magnificent treasures of Gold Butte. Unfortunately, Gold Butte is experiencing heavy visitation without education, modest facilities, or sufficient law enforcement. The consequences are vandalism to historic and Native American habitation sites, graffiti on ancient rock art panels and the loss of scientific integrity of the resources. Join Friends of Gold Butte and contact your Congressperson to designate Gold Butte as a National Conservation area with Wilderness. For more information go online at: [www.friendsofgoldbutte.org](http://www.friendsofgoldbutte.org).

**HEALTH COMMITTEE** *By: Co-Chairs*

*Ann Marie Smith and Susan Meacham*

The Health Committee met in September to discuss the direction of the committee. Over the past few years, the Health Committee was a leading force in supporting legislation that would provide a mechanism for obtaining a representative sample of heights and weights of school children in order to document their nutritional status. The data is needed to confirm that Nevada's children are similar in nutritional status to those in states that have designed appropriate interventions programs to identify children in need.

In 2007, legislation passed as NRS 392.420 and was set to expire in June 2010. The 2009 Legislative Session passed AB 191 which continued the law until 2015. The Health Committee will continue to monitor the results of the sampling.

In addition, the Health Committee is seeking new members who would like to get involved and influence future topics for study. The committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 5:30 pm in the Borders café area at Town Square (Las Vegas Boulevard near I-215). Prospective members are welcome to join us. There will be no meeting in October; the next meeting will be November 2nd.

**N.S.A. of PARLIMENTARIANS  
22<sup>nd</sup> BIENNIAL CONVENTION**

October 9, 2010 – Texas Station Convention Center  
Workshops:

**A. Presiding Over Better, Shorter Business Meetings**  
**B. E-Presiding** How do you set up, prepare for and preside over an electronic meeting?

**C. Talk the Talk – Scripted Success**

If the president and vice president are both absent, who runs the meeting?

The \$40 fee includes meeting room, lunch, workshops and handouts.

To reserve space or for more information contact Paula Petruso at [ppetruso@aol.com](mailto:ppetruso@aol.com) or 702-435-0498.

**EDUCATION:** *Nevada Department of Education*

For Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) purposes, school and district progress is measured against achievement targets, which increased significantly this year as schools approach the federally mandated 100% proficiency for all students by the 2013-2014 school year. In spite of the increased targets, fifteen districts, representing 97% of Nevada's students made adequate yearly progress.

Dr. Keith Rheault, Superintendent of Public Instructions, stated "Schools face the dual challenge of increased expectations and declining resources as they move towards the No Child Left Behind goal of 100% proficiency for 2014. Despite these challenges, Nevada districts and schools have remained committed to students. Within the State, there are many schools which have shown high and exemplary achievement. We look to these schools as models, and as evidence that well-focused planning and excellent instruction produces results."

**BALLOT QUESTIONS  
STATE QUESTIONS**

**STATE QUESTION NO. 1\***

**Amendment to the Nevada Constitution**  
Senate Joint Resolution No. 2 of the 74th Session

Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to provide for the appointment of Supreme Court justices and District Court judges by the Governor for their initial terms from lists of candidates nominated by the Commission on Judicial Selection, with subsequent retention of those justices and judges after independent performance evaluations and voter approval? *\*(Endorsed by LWVLVV)*

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**STATE QUESTION NO. 2**

**Amendment to the Nevada Constitution**  
Senate Joint Resolution No. 9 of the 74th Session

Shall the Nevada Constitution be amended to allow for the establishment of an intermediate appellate court, that would have jurisdiction over appeals of certain civil and criminal cases arising from the district courts?

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**STATE QUESTION NO. 3**

**Amendment to the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955**  
Assembly Bill 403 of the 75th Session

Shall the Sales and Use Tax Act of 1955 be amended to authorize the Legislature to amend or repeal any provision of this Act only if necessary to resolve a conflict with any federal law or interstate agreement for the administration, collection, or enforcement of sales and use taxes?

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**STATE QUESTION NO. 4**

**Amendment to the Nevada Constitution**  
Assembly Joint Resolution No. 3 of the 74th Session

Shall Article 1, Section 22 of the Nevada Constitution be repealed and shall Article 1, Section 8 of the Nevada Constitution be amended to revise provisions relating to eminent domain proceedings.

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**COUNTY QUESTIONS**

**CLARK COUNTY ADVISORY QUESTION NO. 5**  
**Local Revenue Advisory Question**

This question is advisory only. Shall the consent of the governing body of the local government be required before the State Legislature can act to decrease revenues or reserves collected by, distributed to, or held by the local government, or impose fees on or mandate new or different services be performed by the local government?

**VOTER SERVICES** *By: Teresa Bell*

During the next two years, 2009-2011, LWVUS will focus on promoting diversity at all levels of the state judiciary to enhance the legitimacy of our system of justice in the eyes of an increasingly diverse public. The document below is a report published by the National Center for State Courts on role fair and impartial state courts play. 2009 Report on the Critical Role of Fair and Impartial State Courts (PDF File)

LWVLVV has been working with Nevadans for Qualified Judges to inform voters on **Ballot Question 1.**

***Doesn't this take away my right to vote?***

No. Every judge will stand before voters, every term. Judges should be accountable to the people they serve. You'll keep your right to vote on judges in a way that focuses on their qualifications, instead of their fundraising ability or campaign promises. About 6 weeks before the general election, you'll get to review a report with detailed information about your judges, called a Judicial Performance Evaluation. Almost half of your district judges ran unopposed for re-election, so you had no opportunity to unseat any of these judges who performed poorly.

***What is the difference between electing other governmental officials and judges?***

Judges have a different duty to the people: they must uphold the law and the Constitution. They must be qualified, impartial, and fair. Other elected representatives work by committee and can change their support for particular issues or ideologies.

***Why change the Nevada system?***

The perception of influence of money in the courtroom is a serious problem. Judicial candidates have to raise money in order to campaign. The major sources of funding are attorneys, law firms, & special interest groups - the very same people who appear before the judges whose campaigns they support.

***Won't this make it easier for the Governor to reward campaign donors with judgeships?***

No. The Governor is only allowed to appoint one of the judges recommended by the Judicial Selection Comm., a non-partisan citizen panel. The commission has been in place since 1977 and has an open, rigorous review process that is public. Commission members are from all walks of life; candidate applications are posted online; and citizens can submit comments and address the commission. Diversity will be a goal.

***Won't we have less women and minorities with merit selection than direct election?***

No. Merit selection of judges opens up the application process to a larger pool of qualified candidates who are interested in becoming judge – especially to women and minorities – but who, for one reason or another, do not want to have to deal with raising money and organizing a political campaign to be elected. Justice O'Connor has said that the counties in AZ with merit selection and retention have seen significant percentage increases in women on the bench compared to the ones that have a direct election system.

**CANDIDATE NIGHT \***  
**Tuesday OCTOBER 5TH 6 to 10 p.m.**  
**Italian American Club \* 2333 E. Sahara**  
**FREE**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY**



P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112  
 Phone: (702) 464-7887

Email: [lww@lwwlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lww@lwwlasvegasvalley.org)

Website: [www.lwwlasvegasvalley.org](http://www.lwwlasvegasvalley.org)

*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.*

The LWVLVV meets September through April, the third Saturday of the month. Meetings are currently held at the Las Vegas Social Club adjacent to Main Street Station, Main and Stewart. A 9:30 a.m. breakfast is followed by the program at 10:00 a.m.

**NOTE: NEW CHARGES**  
 Breakfast is \$20 with reservation.  
 Admittance at the door \$5.00  
 (Included in Breakfast charge)

**2010-2011 PROGRAM CALENDAR**

- October 5, 6-10 p.m. Candidate Night, Italian American Club**
- October 16** Jon Ralston and ballot questions
- November 2** READ! THINK! VOTE!
- November 20** Equitable funding. Carole Valardo
- December 5th** NO MEETING. Board work session
- January 15, 2011** Redistricting –why worry?
- February 19** How to Lobby, Bobbi Gang
- March 19** Is now the time for annual sessions??
- April 16** Nevada Wilderness Project with Charlotte Overby  
*(programs subject to change)*

**COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES**

- Education — prior to monthly meeting
- Environment— call of the chair
- Health—1st. Tues of month @ 5:30- Borders Books in Town Square  
 No meeting in October
- Legislative—Call of the Chair (check League website)

**NAME BADGES**



Magnetic \$10.00  
 Pin \$9.00  
 All profits go to the  
 501 (c)(3) Education Project Fund  
 See: **Freda Greenfield**  
 at meeting or  
[lww@lwwlasvegasvalley.org](mailto:lww@lwwlasvegasvalley.org)

**2009-2010 NEVADA STATE LEAGUE OFFICERS**

President — Sam King, Las Vegas  
 Vice-President — Rosemary Gary, Mesquite  
 Secretary - Alicia Wright, Sparks \* Treasurer - Vivian Fully, Las Vegas  
 Directors – Karen Beardsley, Kathleen Dickinson, Mary Liveretti, Sandy Metcalf, Betty Pardo, Lisa Stiller

**YEARLY DUES—thru—MARCH 2011**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF LAS VEGAS VALLEY**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Yearly dues: ( ) \$55 New/Renew Member ( ) \$75 Household ( ) \$25 Student**

Donation to Education Fund \_\_\_\_\_ (tax deductible) Donation to Lobby Fund \_\_\_\_\_ (not tax deductible)

Please note: Pictures are occasionally taken for our publications during meetings. Please check if not ok to use

Mail to: **League of Women Voters, P.O. Box 12291, Las Vegas, NV 89112**

**Please Support the League's Education Fund—it is tax deductible and assists in our scholarship program**