



THE HONORABLE MENTION



election

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SPECIAL
EDITION

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2008



Beyond the Presidency...

by: Jennifer Gerrits

Your vote could inadvertently cost you hundreds extra per year, put limits on a relationship, and confine chickens to a cage the size of a piece of paper.

Turn open a page in Newsweek or flick on CNN and you are likely to be inundated with new aspects covering Barack Obama's race or John McCain's war heroism. The media's vapid coverage of the presidential election is overshadowing California's extraordinarily important local issues. Some propositions that the ballot is offering touches on subjects that can affect California's fiscal security and the rights of its residents.

The following is an overview of some of the more popular propositions.

Voting for Proposition 8 would change the California Constitution to eliminate the right

of same-sex couples to marry in California.

Those for Proposition 8 believe that it does not take away any rights or benefits of gay or lesbian domestic partnerships (Family Code § 297.5). They feel that their mission will curb any potentially untraditional social ramifications of same-sex marriage.

Those against Proposition 8 argue that it mandates one set of rules for gay and lesbian couples and another set for everyone else. They believe that marriage is the institution that conveys dignity and respect to the lifetime commitment of any couple and Proposition 8 would deny gay and lesbian couples that same respect.

Proposition 7 requires utility companies to generate 20% of their power from renewable energy by 2010 and raises the requirement for utilities to 40% by 2020 and 50% by 2025.

The argument against Proposition 7 is that it is so poorly written that it will actually

disrupt renewable power development, and increase electric bills and taxpayer costs by hundreds of millions of dollars, and more.

Those for Proposition 7 believe that it is a balanced solution that will reduce the costs of energy and limit the dangers of global warming.

Production farm animals are confined to cages and small spaces to keep costs low for the consumers. Proposition 2 requires that calves raised for veal, egg-laying hens and pregnant pigs be confined in ways that allow these animals to lie down, stand up, fully extend their limbs and turn around freely. Voters against proposition 2 believe it is too expensive, extreme, and may spread the avian flu.

The California General Election has nine more propositions to vote on this year. How do these propositions affect you? Drastically more than John McCain's war captors or Barack Obama's long lost brother in Kenya.

california voter statistics

2008

- California has 23,171,364 eligible voters
- 16,171,772 of eligible voters (69.79%) are registered to vote
- Since the last presidential election year the total voter registration in CA, increased from 15,625,180 to 16,171,772.6

Of those who registered by political party:

- 43.9% by Democrat
- 32.3% by Republican
- 4.3% by other parties
- 19.5% declined to state

* statistics from the "Last 60 Day Report of Registration" from the office of the California Secretary of State

Be Careful When You Vote!

by Brenda Kaing

We Americans have unfortunately witnessed the result of voting fraud in the last two presidential elections. Voter fraud as well as voting problems have risen in as many as ten states such as Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, Texas, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia, Michigan, Utah and the swing-state of Colorado.

Voters have found that their cast votes have been changed by the electrical machines. Early voters in Putnam County of W. Virginia claim their votes were changed from Democrats to Republican in the week of October 18. Those in Jackson County have also reported the same occurrence. In Michigan, a judge has ruled for the restoration of thousands of names that were illegally removed from voter rolls. Officials in Wisconsin have admitted that their voting databases are wrong 1 out of 5 times when flagging.

Errors are often made without the voter's knowledge and they can be as small as the wrong birth year. The finger has been pointed at each political party, however the blame cannot be appointed. So be sure to double-check your votes this year, just as you would with an important exam!

The World is Watching

by: Karla Villaseñor

From Paris to Mexico City to Rome, the 2008 U.S. presidential election is making news. Both presidential candidates can brag that they have strong supporters that are Washington outsiders. However, these non-citizen supporters cannot vote in the U.S., but a countless number of them are dedicating numerous hours to getting their man elected. One of the significant factors for the election is the candidates themselves.

The Democratic candidate, Barack Obama has grabbed major attention because he could possibly be the first African American in the history of the United States. The accessibility of election news from anywhere on the planet is playing a key role in this election. Because of the internet and 24 hour news coverage, people in Kuala Lumpur to Ankara can follow what is going on in this race to the presidency.

But as the world follows the campaign, it seems as outsiders are obsessed for change in America as much as the American voters.

Over the past eight years the presidency of George W. Bush has made him very unpopular around the world. It is interesting that the people in Bolivia are basically happy with whoever wins this election in November because it will not be the man they dread,

George W. Bush. A feeling of cohesion with the rest of the world has been created because this has been a very destructive era in terms of foreign policy regarding the U.S., and there is a general hope that perhaps that can change.

What will change? I guess we simply will have to wait and see. However, the impact of a slowing U.S. economy is already shaping the lives of millions around the planet. In Asia, the main concern is whether or not the next president will be more protecting and make it harder to export to the U.S. In Latin America and mainly in Mexico, the interest is focused on what the candidates might do about immigration.

These presidential candidates, from their strategies and policies to their personalities, have made this race to the White House very interesting, that's the reason why the whole world is watching.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ELECTION DAY IS:
NOVEMBER 4TH, 2008

Stop the Madness!

by: Sandra de Mel

We shudder and gasp in horror upon hearing stories of domestic violence inflicted upon pets. Yet there is another group of animals who is under constant abuse, and has only recently come to our attention: farm animals.

Remember the horrific video of the sick cows being repeatedly shocked and run over by a forklift that surfaced earlier this year? Those sick cows are called "downer" cows and run the risk of carrying diseases that may be harmful to consumers. Therefore, they are intended to be kept away from the nation's food supply. Yet in light of California's Proposition 2, it has come to our attention that the living quarters of these bovines, along with other animals, only foster the spread of diseases that may taint our food.

Proposition 2 seeks to prevent the inhumane treatment of farm animals kept in small cages and crates. It specifically addresses the problems that are created by veal crates, battery cages and gestation crates in which baby cows, egg laying hens, and pregnant pigs are kept, respectively, until slaughter time. These unfortunate creatures are imprisoned in less than ideal conditions, incapable of simple functions

such as turning around or lying down. The psychological and physical damage to these animals is truly appalling.

When the animals suffer, we suffer as well. The reason that sick animals are prevented from entering the food supply is because they may carry diseases that may be transmitted to humans upon consumption. In such confined spaces, one sick animal can ruin the batch. This sounds like common sense, but the companies that run the food industry have only one thing on their minds: profit. A smaller space means less land they must pay for and more money in the bank.

If Prop 2 is passed, farm factories will have until 2012 to implement these changes. These changes are not costly and will benefit so many, humans and animals alike, in the long run.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DIFFERENT PROPOSITIONS, INCLUDING PROPOSITION 2, VISIT THE CALIFORNIA GENERAL ELECTION VOTER INFORMATION GUIDE ONLINE AT:

WWW.VOTERGUIDE.SOS.CA.GOV



Chickens in a battery on a Californian farm

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