



Long-Time Sausalito Elected Official Amy Belser Passes Away



A very good friend of the League of California Cities passed away recently. Amy Belser, former Mayor and Council Member from Sausalito, passed away last week at age 73. Belser was elected to the Sausalito City Council five times, winning her last election in November 2008. In the summer of 2009, Belser stepped down from her city government role because of health issues but continued her community activity which included attending council meetings whenever possible.

Belser originally became involved in local government in 1992 when she became active in the effort to limit out-of-scale home construction in the local community. She was also instrumental in completing several city projects including: opening the new gym at the Martin Luther King Jr. school property; finding a permanent home for the city's historical society in the "ice house" building at Bridgeway and Bay Street; completion of the waterslide part of the \$1.3 million ferry landing; completion of the Bridgeway Boardwalk; and the addition of a basketball court at Southview Park.

Belser worked to consolidate the Sausalito Fire Department, and her experience always played a key role in the development of a balanced city budget. She also served on the Transportation Authority of Marin and was an ambassador to Sausalito's sister city of Sakaide, Japan.

Before her days on the city council, she served on Sausalito's Trees and Views Committee, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and Planning Commission.

In her professional career, she worked many years for the California Medical Association (CMA) and brought her experience and savvy in dealing with statewide public policy issues in CMA to her work with the League. Belser served on a number of League policy committees and task forces. She was a trusted advisor to the League on its legislative agenda and to its legislative staff. She was an active member of the League North Bay Division.¹

The League sends condolences to Belser's family and friends, as well as the greater Sausalito community where she lived and carried out her duties in public life for a community that she loved dearly. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

¹Belser held a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Michigan and entered politics with an agenda that called for curtailing "McMansions." (Photos not in article)