

## Discussion Guide for Neighbor to Neighbor Program for November 6, 2018 General Election

### Introduction:

Thank neighbors for coming to the meeting. Tell them that the purpose of the League's Neighbor to Neighbor program is for voters to be informed. Ask if everyone has his or her sample ballot. Go over key election dates and information

- Election Day is Nov. 6. The deadline to register to vote for this election is Oct. 22.
- Does anyone need to register to vote for this election? Offer voter registration forms or voters can register online at [www.registertovote.com](http://www.registertovote.com)
- The first day of voting is Oct. 8.
- The polling place for your neighborhood is on the back of your sample ballot.
- Does anyone plan to vote by mail? The Registrar mails ballots to permanent vote by mail voters on Oct. 8. Your ballot will come soon after that.
- Before you return your ballot, make sure you sign your **own** ballot envelope in your **own** handwriting. If you mail your ballot, it must be postmarked by Election Day. You can also turn it in at any polling place in **Oakland** by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you applied to vote by mail, but decide to vote at the polls, you **must** turn in the ballot you received in the mail. If you lose or didn't get your ballot, you can call the Registrar to get another if there is time, or you can go to the polls and vote provisionally.

### Discuss state, county, regional and local measures on the ballot

Start with the State propositions, followed by regional, county and city. For each proposition, read the question and get the discussion going by asking some of the following questions (from **How to Evaluate Ballot Propositions** from the **Pros and Cons**):

- What type of measure is it (bond, initiative, constitutional amendment)?
- Who put it on the ballot (legislature, citizens' initiative)?
- Is the measure written clearly? Do you agree with the goal of the measure?
- How will the measure be funded – sales tax? property tax? bonds? How will that impact you?
- Does the measure mandate a government program but doesn't address the funding for it?
- Can the issue be easily decided with a yes or no vote or is it something for the legislature to examine?
- Who are the sponsors/supporters and who are the opponents of the measure? What interests do they represent? Where is the money coming from to promote/oppose it? See [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca).
- **What % does it need to pass?**
- Report the League position on each Proposition. Ask for feedback.

### Discuss voting

- Ask if neighbors have a plan to vote – do they plan to vote by mail or at the polls? When will they mail their VBM ballots/go to the polls?
- Ask if anyone has questions about how to mark the ballot. What happens when you walk into the polling place? What if your name is not on the Roster? What is a *provisional* ballot? (This is a regular ballot that you put inside a *provisional* envelope. The Registrar verifies your registration and counts the ballot.)

If you can't answer a question, say you will try to get the answer and get back to them.

**Ask neighbors to spread the word to other neighbors about the importance of registering and voting in the election. Offer applications to anyone who is interested in joining the League.**