



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol.61 #3 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* March 2018



Info on Prop 13 Reform

Will reforming Prop 13 affect homeowners?

Isn't Prop 13 reform bad for businesses?

Where will the new revenue go?

**Come hear why Prop 13 needs reformed
and how does that benefit our communities.**

DATE: Thursday, April 19

TIME: 6:00pm to 7:30pm

PLACE: Hayward City Hall Council Chambers

ADDRESS: 777 B Street, Hayward 94541

Speakers

Ben Grieff, Campaign Director and Spokesperson for Evolve

Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT



TAKE ACTION: Tell Congress to Pass Sensible Gun Laws

On March 24, many of our League members joined students in the “**March for Our Lives**” event in Oakland, San Francisco, San Leandro, Walnut Creek, San Jose, and many other cities across the Bay Area to show our support for the students’ movement that calls for a tight gun control policy in our country. The “**March for Our Lives**” once again demands that our lives and safety become a priority and that we finally put an end to the epidemic of mass school shootings.

Yes, we have marched and have registered voters, but the fighting for solutions to prevent gun violence and mass shooting is still on and requires your continuous support and action. Chris Carson, President of the National League of Women Voters, calls on all league members to join the millions of students, parents, and concerned Americans to keep fighting on Capitol Hill and in legislatures around the country to move reforms forward. She states that “Curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health, and public confidence. It is about protecting our children and our communities from the senseless tragedies that plague our society”.

It’s time to stop the violence. Tell Congress to move forward with common sense gun legislation. Call or write to your Congress Representatives and tell them this issue is too important to ignore any longer and that common-sense solutions to gun violence will save lives

http://participate.lwv.org/c/10065/p/dia/action4/common/public/?action_KEY=13314&okay=true
).

Be part of the progress of moving forward.

Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young, Co-Presidents

VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

Volunteers are still needed from the League of Women Voters Eden Area to register new voters. Your participation is very important and appreciated. Pick your Voter Registration (VR) site from the schedule below and let VR Chair Richard Maurer know so he can supply all participants with a LWV banner, VR forms, supplies and on-the-job training. Team up and select more than one date at same location to make your commitment, and our league’s effort, more effective. At this critical time in our country’s history, we stand up. **The dates in bold are those where we urgently need volunteers.**

Contact Richard:
prmaurer3130@att.net or 510-314-3890.

San Leandro BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
April 4, May 2

Bayfair BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
April 18, May 9

Castro Valley BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
April 4, May 2

Hayward BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
April 18, May 9

Dublin-West BART: Thurs. 4-6pm,
April 26, May 10

Hayward Farmers Market: Sat. 10am-1pm,
April 14, May 5

Castro Valley Farmers Market: Sat. 11am-2pm,
April 21, May 12

Bayfair Farmers Market: Sat. 9am-1pm,
April 14, May 5

Earth Day at San Lorenzo Homes Association:
April 21

BOARD BRIEFS

Sips and Civility: The Sips & Civility discussion scheduled for April 27 has been cancelled. If anyone is interested in leading this team please let our co-presidents know so we can plan for events in the future.

Measure B Endorsed: The board agreed to endorse Measure B, a bond measure for the San Lorenzo Unified School District, which will be on the June ballot in that area. For more information, see: www.slzUSD.org/measureb.

Student Team: Bishop O'Dowd High School sophomore Olivia Sally is helping our league establish a student team to work with us on youth issues. She is doing this for her Girl Scout Gold Award. Olivia is a Castro Valley resident and is working with our board member Marian Handa to find other high school students in the Eden Area who would like to serve on this team.

ByLaws Revision Approved: The board worked diligently to review the proposed ByLaws Revision and will present the revision at our Membership Meeting **June 2, 2018** for approval from our membership.



Hayward Volunteer of the Year: Richard Maurer, our voter registration team leader, will receive a Hayward Volunteer of the Year award on Oct. 9, 2018 at the annual event held at

St. Rose Hospital. Save the date and look for more information in an upcoming VOTER to purchase your ticket.

Candidate Forums Scheduled for Fall: Janice Friesen is scheduling candidate forums for local school boards and city council races, to be held in September and October 2018. We will need volunteers for these forums, so look for the final dates in upcoming issues of the VOTER, and consider volunteering as moderator, timekeepers, or question sorters.

Penny Peck, LWVEA Secretary

SB 651, the *Petition Disclosure Act!*

Special interests are abusing the very process that was meant to limit their power by spending millions to qualify misleading initiatives and then millions more on deceptive ads to pass them — all while purposefully hiding who pays for them.

SB 651, the *Petition Disclosure Act*, sponsored by the California Clean Money Campaign, requires initiative petitions circulated by **paid** signature gatherers to disclose their top 3 funders — letting voters know who's behind initiatives before they sign.



SB 651 complements AB 249, the **California DISCLOSE Act**, which passed to require ballot measure ads to clearly disclose their top 3 true funders when they ask for your vote. Together, they'll let voters know who's paying for initiatives every step of the way.

SB 651 has passed the Senate and all of its Assembly committees and will be coming up for a final Assembly floor vote sometime early 2018. Urge YOUR Assemblymember to vote Yes on SB 651 when it has its final vote!

LWV OAKLAND LUNCHEON April 19

The League of Women Voters Oakland is holding the 27th Annual All-City Luncheon on Thurs., April 19, 2018 at the Scottish Rite Center. If you are interested in attending, you can purchase tickets at:

www.eventbrite.com/e/27th-annual-all-city-luncheon-and-making-democracy-work-awards-tickets-44240711158 .

LWVC CALLS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SIGN PETITIONS TO FUND SCHOOLS

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will restore over \$11 billion per year to California's schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital local services.

We can no longer afford to keep giving billions of dollars in tax breaks to millionaires, billionaires, and big corporations. Closing California's commercial property tax loophole restores \$11 billion for schools, community colleges' and other vital community services, including emergency responder services, parks, libraries, health clinics, trauma centers, affordable housing, homeless services, and roads.

Join the League of Women Voters of California and others to fund California schools by closing the Corporate Property Tax Loophole in Proposition 13 while continuing to guarantee protections for homeowners, residential renters, agricultural land, and small businesses.

HOW CAN I HELP? The first step is to get the measure on the November ballot. In order to do this, supporters must collect over 500,000 signatures. Richard Maurer, a Board member, has volunteered to spearhead efforts to secure signatures for Eden Area League.

He has petitions for us to collect signatures on this ballot measure, so voters can decide in November whether or not to support this proposed change in Proposition 13.

The State LWV is making a concerted effort to help get this proposition on the November ballot. We need everyone to pitch in. Each petition requires only eight (8) signatures.

This is an important effort and one long overdue. Let's not waste this opportunity. Please let Richard know how many petition forms you want and he will either deliver or snail mail them to you. His contact info is: **Richard Maurer**, prmaurer3130@att.net, **510-538-5671**.

ANNUAL LEAGUE INTERVIEW WITH ASSEMBLYMAN BILL QUIRK



Each year, the LWVC encourages local leagues to interview state legislators. Earlier this month, LWVEA secretary Penny Peck interviewed Assembly Member [Bill Quirk](#), who represents District 20 which includes

Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Union City, and North Fremont:

<https://a20.asmdc.org/>. The four questions asked were sent to us by the LWVC.

Question 1: Money Bail Reform

Currently, release pending trial is based on an arrestee's capacity to post money bail. Do you support legislative changes to a risk-assessment based system, so that release is contingent on preventing violence in the community, rather the arrestee's finances?

Assembly member Quirk is in favor of bail reform; he wants to be sure that any new laws do not keep the same people in jail that money bail does, such as proof of home ownership. He is coauthor of a two-year bill that addresses the issue, SB 10:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180SB10 .

Question 2: CEQA Reform – California Environmental Quality Act

What is your view regarding the use of CEQA to delay affordable housing projects? While recent legislative changes have streamlined the CEQA process for in-fill projects, do you think other legislative changes to CEQA are needed?

Quirk agreed that there is a need to do some reform in this area, but it is complex. The reform involves determining that lawsuits really focus on environmental issues and not just a stalling tactic, since protections to the environment are so important. This is an issue still being worked on.

Question 3: Sea Level Rise

We need a regional, coordinated effort of several state agencies. And since the threat is swift in terms of typical infrastructure projects, we need to coordinate now. What is the path forward to assure continuity of infrastructure as we approach 2050 and beyond? What can be done legislatively?

When Quirk was on the Hayward City Council, he was part of the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency, which commissioned a study on the best way to protect the shoreline. Generally, horizontal levies are not as effective as vertical levies in protecting the shoreline; vertical levies are in place when you build up the marches. The Ora Loma Sanitary District assists in building up the marshes. Quirk recommended that people look into the San Francisco Bay Regional CHARG (Coastal Hazards Adaptation Resiliency Group): www.acfloodcontrol.org/SFBayCHARG/. Quirk supported the parcel tax relating to shoreline protections which passed.

Question 4: *What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2018? What are your personal priorities?*

One important issue that will need to be addressed soon is the financial support for UCs and CSUs, since the cost of these state colleges and universities is rising at a rate that many families cannot pay.

Another issue is gun control, and Assembly member Quirk has cosponsored AB 2222, which would require that confiscated guns be entered and tracked in a database: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2222.

Lead weights used by fisherman are a concern since they are harmful to birds, fish, and other wildlife, so Quirk recently introduced AB 2787 to address the issue: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2787.

Another new bill Quirk introduced last month is AB 2125, which requires that there be a manual tally of one percent of precincts chosen by random, to ensure that electronic vote tallies are accurate. It is important to have a risk-

limiting audit of our elections, using a statistical method to ensure accuracy:

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB2125.

The LWVEA thanks Assembly member Quirk for taking the time to meet for this interview and for providing the links to the bills that were discussed.

Penny Peck, LWVEA Secretary

LEAGUE INTERVIEW WITH STATE SENATOR BOB WIECKOWSKI



The League's Legislative Interview with State Senator Bob Wieckowski was held at his District office in Fremont, CA on March 08, 2018. Report prepared by the interview team:

Marilyn Singer, Aiwa Zelinsky, Joanne Young – Co-Presidents, Eden Area, Miriam Keller, VP admin LWVFNUC, Liz Bogatin-Starr, LWV-San Jose/Santa Clara, Syeda Imander, President LWVFNUC, Meriam L Renynosa, Senior District Representative, and Michael____, Intern from Irvington High School.

Question 1: Money Bail Reform

Currently, release pending trial is based on an arrestee's capacity to post money bail. Do you support legislative changes to a risk-assessment based system, so that release is contingent on preventing violence in the community, rather the arrestee's finances?

Senator Wieckowski supports SB 10 (Risk Assessment-Based Release System) and is working with Senator Herzberg to get Gov. Jerry Brown to use Santa Clara County data which indicates that not posting a bond does not increase flight risk. However, there is a great deal of money and political pressure from the Bail Bond Industry! They are making a fortune, much of it off of poor people. Given

that pressure, there is a problem politically to get it into the Assembly – It is on the floor of the Assembly now, and the hope is that Governor Brown might be able to address the blockages in the Assembly. The accused who are jailed because they can't afford the bail and therefore can't get to work or other commitments, come under tremendous pressure to settle. Although money bail bond reform would help to clear out jails, the Sheriffs are not supportive.

Question 2: CEQA Reform – California Environmental Quality Act

What is your view regarding the use of CEQA to delay affordable housing projects? While recent legislative changes have streamlined the CEQA process for in-fill projects, do you think other legislative changes to CEQA are needed?

Senator Wieckowski said while some streamlining has been done for infill, he does not believe that CEQA needs more changes because he says that CEQA is not the problem. The problems (which cause delays) are usually The Endangered Species Act, water quality issues, the Clean Air Act and local zoning. He cited surveys/studies (94 agencies over 5 years) showing cities with 1000's of projects, (Specifically cited - 33 cities responded about 14,000 projects) showing that .03% resulted in litigation. Barriers are usually infrastructure complaints. He is chair of the Environmental Quality Committee, and he is not for diminution of the CEQA process. "People are blaming lack of progress on CEQA" he said, but the environmental review is the process that is causing delays. Inform City Councils and other governments that CEQA litigation is not the problem and that they should stand up to NIMBY's. He recommended that the legislature needs to work with local government entities and other agencies to lessen the housing crisis.

Question 3: Sea Level Rise

We need a regional, coordinated effort of several state agencies. And since the threat is

swift in terms of typical infrastructure projects, we need to coordinate now. What is the path forward to assure continuity of infrastructure as we approach 2050 and beyond? What can be done legislatively?

He said that it's going to be tricky to address this because there are too many small agencies that look at the situation on a local level. The Senator has been trying to create a regional agency similar to ABAG with the muscle and veto power to address environmental and structural issues such as rising sea levels on a macro level. He stated that even adversaries agree with the idea of having regional agencies which have veto power over the 101 cities so they can pull together decision making which is science-based and delivers benefits to everyone in the Bay Area. The state will need to look at all the "Not So Special Districts: and dissolve them. It will have to disallow local zoning regulations that allow uses like Foster City and zoning that allows new building in areas close to sea level.

He is trying to bring focus to legislation -SB 262: Cap and Trade that allows for adaptation and resiliency. He has beefed up the budget for this more adaptive funding. BCDC got some more money, and their methodology can be used on climate adaption areas. He cited as an example, expansion of the wetlands. Marilyn asked how to get small districts to let go of authority. His master plan is to re-organize the Counties into more functional units as in Poland where they have reorganized 68 counties into something like 24. He felt that this would reduce much of the duplication across the counties and would result in better regional decision-making.

Question 4: *What other major issues do you think the legislature must deal with in 2018? What are your personal priorities?*

Housing and Gun Violence: What more can the legislature do to alleviate the housing crisis in California? He said that he supports SB 2 because we want a fountain of money coming from a \$75 transaction fee when someone buys a house. Such a small fee would result in many billions of dollars to go towards building

affordable housing. However, the Real Estate industry is opposing this. He says we need more people saying that we need to charge this relatively small fee to help alleviate this very serious problem

People forget that Cities put in money to the redevelopment agencies –so they had a core of money. Most of the bills now are to try to get another pot of money to replace this. The work he is doing with accessory housing units won't cost governments anything, and cities could bring forth taxes from the accessory housing which has been undocumented thus bringing it out of the dark to be a source of additional funding. He will continue to advocate for affordable housing.

Question 5: What other major issues in 2018 , personal priorities and also talk about guns.

- Sexual harassment and what leadership comes out of Sacramento in this area of unwanted activity.
- CA has already passed several gun safety bills. He thinks they can also pass bills for the 18-21 age ban. Also, UC Davis institute is studying fire arm issues and their data can be used. Miriam Keller asked a question regarding trafficking patterns., and he agreed that this is important.
- SB168 is a recycling bill to study producers' responsibility, especially for aluminum and plastics. He said that recycling countries such as China , India, Mexico, etc. are refusing to accept lower grade materials.
- Income inequality and poverty: Senate Bill 298 – Bank levy bill: Right now if a creditor has a judgement against him/her, the state can empty their checking account. Farm workers don't have bank accounts because they have to save seasonally so they squirrel away funds - He got the bill to the Assembly floor but although he reduced the

protected amount from \$4,800.00 to \$2250 ,the amount of money you can have and still get SSI, the Assembly defeated it by 28 votes. It is still on the floor and he will bring it forward. He had done this to help poor people and he will continue to fight for them.

- SB 16 – Student loan garnishment – Federal can garnish to 15% and others 20% and he wanted to bring parity to15%. The Banks opposed and he could not bring it to the floor. Payday loans – debt collectors and Banks leading the charge against bringing parity.
- Several Nestmates have joined together to share gun information, data banks etc – is it a possibility for us? There are sister judgement laws. He thinks this is a good idea. He said the NRA is a protector for gun manufacturers, and the public needs to recognize this. The Second amendment is a ploy to mask this reality.
- He said that Single Payer will not pass because of the finances – It is a \$40 billion funding issue, and also people have existing insurance and MediCal may not want to change. He thinks that the Nurses' Association which has supported single payer should sit down with Chamber of Commerce and Diabetics Association etc – and show that outcomes will be better and healthier for everyone in order to get more support.

We had a productive hour with the Senator so we thanked him and then had our pictures taken in honor of the day honoring the strength of women. Thank you, Senator Wieckowski!

SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST

Restores Over \$11 Billion a Year for our Schools and Communities Services Does NOT Raise Taxes on Homeowners, Renters or Small Businesses

The League of Women Voters California, PICO California, California Calls, Advancement Project California and Evolve California have submitted a ballot measure to protect California from the Trump federal tax giveaway for millionaire, billionaire, and corporate landowners like himself.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will:



Restore over \$11 billion a year in revenue for our schools and local communities by closing the Prop 13 Corporate Loophole.



NOT raise taxes on homeowners, renters, or small businesses.



Helps small businesses by eliminating the burdensome business personal property tax while also leveling the playing field for new businesses.



Mandate full transparency and accountability for all revenue restored to California's schools and local communities.

Trump's federal tax bill is a massive tax giveaway to large corporations paid for by raising taxes on Californians and slashing funding for our schools and vital community services. In California we have our own massive tax giveaway that benefits these same large corporations at the expense of homeowners, renters and small businesses.

The Prop. 13 Corporate Loophole allows a small number of large commercial property owners to avoid paying over \$11 billion every year in property taxes. In fact, only 8% of commercial properties get 77% of the benefit from this loophole.

Schools and local communities have already suffered from 40 years of disinvestment due to the Prop. 13 Corporate Loophole. Trump's massive corporate tax cuts will hurt Californians even more — our education, first responders, healthcare, and community services are all threatened. It's time to close this loophole and make large commercial property owners pay their fair share in order to restore vital funding for:

 **Schools and Community Colleges**

 **Parks**

 **Roads and Bridges**

 **Firefighters and First Responders**

 **Affordable Housing and Homeless Services**

 **Libraries**

 **Public Transportation**

 **Health Clinics and Trauma Centers**

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is the only fair way to restore billions of dollars of reliable revenue every year for our schools and local communities without raising taxes on homeowners, renters, or small businesses.

Join a growing statewide coalition of community groups, educators, parents, local community leaders and more than 250 organizations that are supporting this commonsense and desperately needed reform.

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy

Friend,

Late last night it was announced that the Commerce Department has made the decision to include a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census.

Make no mistake: this decision isn't about improving demographic data on citizenship.

It's designed to frighten immigrants—citizens and noncitizens alike—so they won't participate in the Census. It's a blatant political maneuver meant to disenfranchise these groups and deny them equal representation.

Including this question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy.

For more than 200 years, the Census has collected information about the geographic distribution of our population so we can provide representation and invest in our communities equitably.

Without a complete count of our nation's people, businesses will not have the tools to make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

The United States Constitution mandates an accurate count of all people living in the United States – not all citizens. Non-citizens are an integral part of our economy and need to be included in the 2020 Census to paint a complete picture of our great country.

The clock is ticking toward 2020.

Stand with us as we call on Congress to take action to correct this issue before it's too late.



Chris Carson

President, League of Women Voters

SUPER HEROES

We are so grateful to the many volunteers that have helped us raise money this month.

We raised over \$2300 by providing election services to two organizations. These funds enable us to keep our membership dues at a low cost.

Special recognition to Co-President Joanne Young. She was Chief Election Inspector and as such spent countless hours coordinating various duties. Working with her were Nancy Van Huffel and Marian Handa. And, kudos to the following members who spent an evening counting ballots:

Rene' Besold, Evelyn Cormier, Carolyn Darcey, Rita Duncan, Janice Friesen, Sue Kleebauer, Richard Maurer, Cosette Sun and Shelia Young.

And what can we say to the four members who gave up their Saturday morning to assist in a recall election of Board members. Aiwa Zelinsky, our other Co-President was instrumental in negotiating this contract and was assisted by Nancy, Sue Kleebauer and Shelia Young.



League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/826-6674
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and
 unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland,
 Fairview, and San Lorenzo

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:

League of Women Voters of Eden Area Treasurer

P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Dues: Regular \$60

2nd member same household \$30,

Student \$25

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| Joanne Young, Co-President jysunrunner@gmail.com | | Lynda Foster, Programs lynda.foster.goyr@statefarm.com |
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| René Besold, Board Assistant rbesold@sbcglobal.net | Kimberly Eng-Tamura, Outreach cengtam@gmail.com | Jewell Spalding, Local positions jewellspalding@mac.com |

CALENDAR

Thurs., April 19, 2018
6:00-7:30pm

Forum on Prop. 13 Reform

Hayward City Hall
777 B St., Hayward

Mon., April 23, 2018
5:30-7:30pm

LWVEA Board Meeting

Hayward Area Historical Society
22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

Mon., May 21, 2018
5:30-7:30pm

LWVEA Board Meeting

Hayward Area Historical Society
22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

Sat., June 2, 2018
Time TBA

Annual Membership Meeting

Place to be determined

For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out www.lwvea.org