



League of Women Voters Eden Area

**VOTER**

Vol.60 #6 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* April 2017

**SAVE THE DATE**

**DROUGHT + FLOODING =  
Future of Water in California?**

**DATE: Friday, April 28, 2017**

**TIME: 11:30am to 2:00pm**

**PLACE: Castro Valley Adult School  
Rooms 12 and 13**

**4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546**

(Map and Direction link: <http://www.cvadult.org/contact/map-and-directions> )



Speakers have been invited to discuss the Future of Water in CA at every level—local, regional, and state.

A light lunch { æ be ordered for \$10 (optional).  
RSVP to: [lwvea@aol.com](mailto:lwvea@aol.com)

**Co-Sponsored by:** League of Women Voters Eden Area

Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs



**How Safe are Our Elections?  
Friday, April 21, 2017 ~ 7 pm  
Pancho Villa Event Center  
1026 B St, Hayward 94541**

**You are invited to a special presentation  
by Dr. Rebecca Mercuri**



How secure are our elections?  
What could we do to ensure that every vote counts?

Dr. Mercuri will shed light on the next wave of election security reengineering, National Popular Vote, Ranked Choice Voting, Cryptographic Balloting, Percentage Audits, and Voluntary Voting System Guidelines.

*Dr. Rebecca Mercuri is a digital forensics expert at Notable Software, Inc., where she performs investigations and provides testimony on a broad variety of legal matters. Shortly after successfully defending her Ph.D. dissertation on the subject of vote tabulation, at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Engineering, Rebecca submitted testimony to the US Congress and the House of Commons regarding the 2000 US Presidential election (Bush v Gore) and other election matters. Dr. Mercuri was also recently appointed to the National Academies of Sciences research panel on the Future of Elections. For more about her pioneering and ongoing efforts, advocacy, and commentary, please visit: [www.notablesoftware.com/evote.html](http://www.notablesoftware.com/evote.html)*

**This non-partisan event is free and open to all. Refreshments will be served.**

CoSponsored by: Hayward City Council Members Francisco Zermeño and Sara Lamnin.



**AAUW Debuts 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit at Hayward Historical Society**

For 75 years, the Hayward-Castro Valley Branch of AAUW (American Association of University Women) has been dedicated to advancing education, equality, and community for Bay Area women. They have created a new exhibit for the Hayward Historical Society, 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, running May 13 to July 2, 2017, in the community gallery. The exhibit showcases vintage photos, letters, articles, clothing, and awards, many never displayed before, celebrating this 75-year legacy. [www.haywardareahistory.org/](http://www.haywardareahistory.org/) .

There will be a reception celebrating the opening of the exhibit on Wednesday., May 17, 2016, 5:00-7:00pm, and League members are encouraged to attend. At the reception, enjoy light refreshment and tour the exhibit. The Hayward-Castro Valley branch of AAUW will also celebrate their recent award as the 2017 Historic Organization, named by the Hayward Historical Society. To RSVP for the reception, email Linda Slater: [lindajslater@gmail.com](mailto:lindajslater@gmail.com).



# WELCOME New Members

**April Anderson** recently moved to Castro Valley from Southern California. She completed her PhD in English at Claremont Graduate University in 2016 and is now teaching in the English Department and Business Communications Department at CSU Stanislaus.



April is also a yoga instructor, working with senior citizens at the Hayward Area Recreational District in San Lorenzo and teaching vinyasa yoga at Castro Valley Yoga. She is also founder and owner of Nature's Laurels, a small business that focuses on health and wellness. In her spare time, April enjoys volunteering at the Alameda County Community Food Bank, going for walks in our local redwoods, writing, and advocating for peace and social justice.



**Rita Duncan** currently serves as the Board Secretary, Chair of Personnel/Safety /Public Information Committee and member of the Solid Waste Committee on the Oro Loma Sanitary District's Board of Directors. She

was appointed as a member of the Board of Directors in January 2016 and is the first African American to serve on the Board in 105 years. In the recent presidential election, she was elected to the position by 26,000+ Oro Loma constituents voting for her to continue in the office. She is honored to be a public official and to be of service to her community. Rita has over 30 years of professional experience, including, human

resources, performance management, employee training, safety, wellness, organizational development, specializing in interpersonal and group dynamics. She possesses a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Human Services and a Master's Degree in Counseling Psychology from Notre Dame de Namur University. Rita received her facilitator's training from the Graduate School of Business at Stanford University.

Rita was born in Olive Branch, MS and migrated to the Bay Area when she was 4 years old where she attended elementary, high school and college. She is proud to live in the Fairview area of Hayward for over 18 years and of her children graduating from Hayward and Moreau High Schools.

Rita recently retired from her corporate position as a Human Resources Director for a Fortune 500 company and is excited to be able to spend more time with her 3 granddaughters, Kaliyah (13), Jaylah (5) and Lilyana (16 months). She loves listening to jazz, participating in walking marathons and writing.

**Lynda Foster** is a community activist and long term Castro Valley resident. She is currently a Corporate Trainer and Legislative Partner for State Farm Insurance. She maintains a long history of advocating for women's rights and health issues, serving on several prominent boards such as Board President for the East Bay Regional Council



- California Women Lead, Volunteer Chairperson for the American Diabetes Association-Women's Tour de Cure and Board Vice President for SportsHopes. Lynda is passionate about promoting women's issues and has collaborated on a number of projects, lending her dedication and years of experience to their success. Her diverse skill set includes strengths in marketing, networking and event planning.

Lynda is married to State Farm Agent James Foster and is the mother of a recent college graduate. She enjoys jewelry making, traveling and experiencing/sharing great food with friends and family.

## CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT



### Take Action

We have been reporting on the actions that the League has been focusing on since last December. Here again is a call for action to improve the nation's health care policy.

Recently LWVUS President Chris Carson sent out emails calling on all of us to take action now to save health care and take actions to preserve the ACA (Affordable Care Act). Legislation "American Health Care Act" (AHCA) that would repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) was introduced on March 6, 2017 by the leadership in the House of Representatives. LWVUS believes that the "American Health Care Act" is un-American.

The collapse of this new bill (AHCA) that was developed in secret on March 24, 2017 once again demonstrated that having access to affordable, quality health care for all Americans is the core value of American belief. It also shows how effective citizen action can be. The Declaration of Independence states that all men have "unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness," which necessarily entails having the health care needed to preserve life and pursue happiness.

The LWVUS strongly supports ACA and believes that the ACA's transformational reforms provide universal health care for all Americans. Chris Carson, President of the League of Women Voters of the United States, issued the following statement after the House Speaker pulled the "American Health Care Act" from the House floor, canceling the House vote:

*"Today we saw further proof that the American Health Care Act is the wrong*

*solution to healthcare in this country. This unpopular legislation is bad for women, bad for families and bad for seniors. The House took the right step by not voting on this un-American bill that would take away health coverage for millions of Americans."* (March 24, 2017)

We, as individuals, joined the League because we believe that all Americans should have access to affordable, quality health care. We believe that all Americans should have access to a basic level of care, including disease prevention, primary care (including prenatal and reproductive health), acute long-term care, mental health care, and health promotion and education. For decades, League members including us at our local league have lobbied for comprehensive health care reform at all levels of government. For instance, our League's efforts in promoting mental/behavioral health care has demonstrated our dedication and devotion to the advancing and expanding of a sound health care system and policy. One way to take action is to contact your [Representatives and tell them to be accountable and responsible for All Americans.](#)

If your senators and representatives are not saved in your phone yet, text your zip code to 520-200-2223. You will get a text back with your senators and representatives contact information.

Here is contact info for Representatives in Eden Area:

Senator Dianne Feinstein: 202-224-3841;  
**San Francisco Office:** phone: (415) 393-0707

Senator Kamala D. Harris: 202-224-3553;  
**Sacramento Office:** 501 I Street, Suite 7-600, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone [\(916\) 448 - 2787](#)

Representative Eric Swalwell: 202-225-5065; **District Office:** [3615 Castro Valley Blvd. Castro Valley, CA 94546](#). Phone: 510-370-3322

State Senator Bob Wieckowski: 916-651-4010; **Fremont District Office:** 39510 Paseo Padre Parkway, Suite 280, Fremont, CA 94538, **Phone:** (510) 794-3900

State Rep. Bill Quirk: 916-319-2020, **District Office:** 22320 Foothill Blvd, Suite 540, Hayward, CA 94541  
Phone: (510) 583-8818

State Rep. Rob Bonta: (916) 319-2018,  
**District Office:** 1515 Clay Street, Ste. 2204,  
Oakland, CA 94612  
Phone: (510) 286-1670

***Do you want to know who you are? Don't ask. Act! Action will delineate and define you. -- Thomas Jefferson***

JOANNE YOUNG – Co-President  
AIWA ZELINSKY – Co-President

## **BOARD BRIEFS March 27, 2017**

**“Meet Your Elected” event held on March 10:** Thanks to everyone who worked on the “Meet Your Elected” event, with 35 elected officials in attendance.



*State Senator Bob Wieckowski*

**Richard Maurer appointed to board:** Recently, Cossette Sun resigned from our board, so Richard Maurer has been appointed to take her place. Thanks to Cossette for her long and devoted service.

**Voter Services Team:** At our last board meeting, the Voter Services Team has been reorganized into several independent teams, including Affidavit Services, Candidate Forums, Pros & Cons, Student Voter Registration, and Voter Registration. Let us know if you are interested in volunteering for any of these teams.

**Nominating Team:** Many of our board members volunteered to serve again for the 2017-18 year (which begins July 1). Three board members are choosing to resign from the board: Suzanne Barba, Terry Guillory, and Nancy Van Huffel. Nancy will work in an off-board position as advisor. Nominated to replace them are Rita Duncan, Lynda Foster, and April Anderson, who will stand for election at our June membership meeting.

**Bylaws Review Team:** Nancy Van Huffel has done a draft of revisions to our bylaws, which the board will review over this next month. Once the board votes to approve the revisions, it will be voted on at our membership meeting. Look for it in your Annual Meeting Kit, which will be sent out in May.



*LWVEA members at previous Volunteer Recognition Event (Renè Besold in white)*

**City of Hayward 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Recognition Awards:** Mark your calendar for Oct. 10, 2017. Renè Besold will be receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award for her extensive community service at this event. Also, Aiwa Zelinsky will receive the League's volunteer of the year award. Dinner tickets go on sale in late August or early September so watch our website for more information. This event will be held at St. Rose Hospital.

*LWVEA board meetings are open to the public and held on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:45 p.m. Email [rbesold@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rbesold@sbcglobal.net) for agenda.*

## ***AAUW Panel on Women Elected Officials***

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) will be holding a panel on women elected officials on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, at 6pm, at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley.

Many people would like to see more women candidates running for office and serving our communities. What motivates women to run, and do they collaborate more often than men elected officials? These and related questions will be discussed at this presentation.

The moderator of the panel will be Fran David, retired City Manager from Hayward. Other speakers will include State Controller Betty Yee, Shelia Young from the Ora Loma Board, Penny Peck from the San Lorenzo School Board, and newly elected Judge Jennifer Madden. Alicia Hetman, who is running for AAUW National President, will also be there.

Look on our [www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org) website, under the Calendar, for updates as more information is confirmed. The League of Women Voters Eden Area is a co-sponsor of this event.

## ***Interviews with State Senator Bob Wieckowski and Assembly members Bill Quirk and Rob Bonta***



Recently, our area state legislative representatives were interviewed by League members, with questions submitted by the California League.

Here is a compilation of the answers from State Senator Bob Wieckowski, Assemblyman Rob Bonta, and Assemblyman Bill Quirk:

### **What legislative measures would you support to ensure adequate and stable funding of election administration in California?**

**Wieckowski** believes that State and local governments have a fundamental obligation to provide an election process that ensures the integrity, accessibility, and security of our right to vote. He stated that the state government should raise funds to support elections by closely looking at the budget planning to ensure that we have spending funds for elections.

**Bonta** thinks more needs to be done for voter access, to make voting more convenient and remove barriers to allow/encourage all citizens to vote. Low turnout is a problem in California. There are different ideas on how to remove barriers, possibly making Election Day a holiday or maybe even making voting mandatory. **Bonta** has signed on to lead the effort of Lorena Gonzalez's bill AB212 to allow pre-paid postage for mail-in ballots for the voters. The bill asks the State to pay for this increase in cost.

**Quirk** mentioned some current bills, including AB 840, AB 1044, and AB 895, that aim to improve elections with easier voter registration, a way to verify your vote was counted, and electronic filing.

### **How can California meet the challenge of enrolling more students, including students with greater needs, at the UC and CSU? Is more state funding needed? Where does this issue rank in your legislative priorities?**

**Wieckowski** stated that education is high on his list of issues he wants to address. He thinks California is making progress on higher education accountability. He stated that changes should be made to continue the progress in higher education:

-Changes to our Cal Grant program, which helps low- and middle-income California students to pay for college,

-His priority is AB16 which lowers the cap on how much private lenders can garnish to the federal loan level.

[Bonta](#) has introduced AB1038 to study universal and tuition-free higher education in California as a possible way to meet our projected needs. He proposes looking at our needs for a workforce, our possible need to build more campuses, our need to include multiple pathways, other than college. The financial cost of free tuition and additional campus building will need to be studied. AB1038 does not include trade schools.

[Quirk](#) mentioned that more state funding is needed in this area.

**What kinds of legislative proposals would you support to ensure that enough water of adequate quality is available for municipal and industrial uses, agriculture, and the environment in the face of over-stretched surface water and groundwater resources and climate conditions different than those California experienced in the last century?**

[Wieckowski's](#) new bill will target the recycling of waste water.

[Bonta](#) stated that water is a difficult issue. California needs more water storage, more storm water capture; we are not capturing enough water. We can capture and store water at our private homes. Desalination is possible but very expensive.

[Quirk](#) expressed that the California Water Board is tasked with ensuring more water into the San Joaquin River, which supplies the Delta and impacts our salmon and other wildlife. Eventually, he would like to see California adopt a program which consists of trading water rights.

**What are your thoughts about brackish water desalination as a viable water supply alternative in California?**

Even with the recent increase in interest in brackish water desalination in the media, [Wieckowski](#) said he would like to let technology lead the way on whether and when and how much is invested in pursuing brackish water desalination development. SB 1263 prohibits any more small water districts from forming. Consolidation of districts is needed both for improving water quality and for saving operating expenses.

### **Affordable Housing:**

[Wieckowski's](#) bill is now law, allowing accessible granny units. Local cities have put impact fees on these granny units as much as some big mansions. For all second units, the minimum lot size is 10,000 sq. ft.



**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**Is there a possibility of revisiting single payer health care system in California?**

State Senator Ricardo Lara introduced SB562 regarding the single payer option, which [Bonta](#) supports. The timing may or may not be good at this time. It is a good time to talk about it, but he thinks the governor will veto a single payer plan at this time.

### **Senator [Wieckowski's](#) Priorities for 2017**

Senator wants to fund Legal Aid, help poor people get lawyers. He wants poor people to get immigration lawyers. SB 407 - freedom of speech vs. home owner association which did not allow free speech. SB 504 - red dye #2 and yellow dye in all soft drinks have negative effects on children's hyperactivity.

### **Assemblyman [Bonta's](#) Priorities for 2017**

Affordable housing and transportation are the highest at this time. We need to complete roads/ dams/ housing. Also need to flood the market with housing supply. Need to protect tenants. There are over 100 bills related to housing in California from the Assembly and the Senate.

[Bonta](#) is a co-sponsor of AB1506, a bill to repeal a portion of the Costa-Hawkins bill regarding rent control. Cities need to have more leeway on housing.

We need to take on criminal justice. [Bonta](#) has introduced AB42, a bill to reform California's money bail system. He is sponsoring AB1320 to phase out the use of private prisons in California.



**League of Women Voters of Eden Area**  
 P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678  
 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 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Dues:** Regular \$50,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> member same Household  
 \$25, Student \$20



*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.*

### CALENDAR

<b>Fri. April 21, 2017</b> 7pm	<b>How Safe Are Our Elections?</b> Presentation by Dr. Rebecca Mercuri	<b>Pancho Villa Event Center</b> 1026 B St., Hayward
<b>Mon. April 24, 2017</b> 5:45-7:30pm	<b>LWVEA Board Meeting</b>	<b>Hayward Historical Society</b> 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward
<b>Fri. April 28, 2017</b> 11:30am-2:00pm	<b>Drought + Flooding: Future of Water in Calif.</b> RSVP: <a href="http://www.lwvea.org/files/waterforumflver.pdf">www.lwvea.org/files/waterforumflver.pdf</a>	<b>Castro Valley Adult School</b> 4430 Alma Ave., CV
<b>Tues. May 9, 2017</b> 6pm	<b>AAUW: Women Elected Officials</b> How can we get more women to run?	<b>Castro Valley Library</b> 3600 Norbridge Ave., CV

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out  
[www.LWVEA.org](http://www.LWVEA.org)