



**League of Women Voters Eden Area**

**V O T E R**

*Vol.62 #1 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation Jan/Feb 2019*

***Please be our guest at the  
“Meet Your Electeds” Program***

**Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

**6:00-7:30pm**

**Castro Valley Public Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave.**

**Sponsored by the League of Women Voters Eden Area**

We have invited officials who represent the Eden Area: Congressional; State Senate and Assembly Districts; Alameda County Supervisors; Chabot Community College District; Hayward and San Leandro City Councils, School Board members from Castro Valley, Hayward, San Lorenzo and San Leandro; AC Transit; BART; EBRPD; EBMUD; HARD; and the Castro Valley and Oro Loma Sanitary District Boards.

Join us for a reception and brief presentation celebrating the current elected office holders in the Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro, and San Lorenzo areas.

Please RSVP to Penny Peck at [Pikly@aol.com](mailto:Pikly@aol.com) by Wed., Feb. 20, 2019.  
Thanks so much!

**Special thanks to the Castro Valley Library for the use of their facility.**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**



### **Happy New Year!**

This past year was a busy one for our local league, with intensive voter registration activities before the primary and the midterm elections. This included new efforts to register high school students, as well as adults. We also noticed an increase in interest in election activities in general, which resulted in significant voter turnout for the elections.

Candidate forums were a major activity for our league, where city council candidates and mayoral elections saw increased voter interest. The district attorney forum which we cosponsored with APAPA was standing room only! Pros and Cons forums were also popular, where our volunteers gave overviews of the ballot measures. Unfortunately, only one of the four school districts, Hayward, saw a contested election, with people unwilling to be candidates for those positions.

Our final big event in 2018 was our annual holiday party and fundraiser, which resulted in a healthy bank account that will help us with ongoing activities in the future. It was also a way to thank all of our members who have worked so diligently over this past year.

For 2019, the national league will be focusing on stopping voter suppression and supporting fair congressional districting, which are not big issues in California. But we will still be interested in making elections open, fair, and well-attended in our state and in our area.

The new year will need our participation in several civic endeavors, so we plan to focus on increasing our membership. We will need more volunteers to continue our efforts, and an increase in membership will help with that. We also hope to be more inclusive, with more members of all ages and diverse cultures to reflect the residents of the Eden Area. Thanks again to all of our members/volunteers, and we hope to meet your needs in 2019!

Penny Peck, President  
Eden Area League of Women Voters

## **STOP VOTER SUPPRESSION**

Across the country, there has been a concerted effort in many states to stop some voters from voting, or to make it much harder for them to participate. Legislators and election officials have purged existing voters from the rolls, made cuts to early voting, reduced polling places, put in place strict voter photo ID laws and levied onerous voter registration restrictions.

All of these actions have been made easier by the Supreme Court's decision to gut key provisions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013. The 2016 election was the first presidential election in 50 years without full protection of the right to vote.

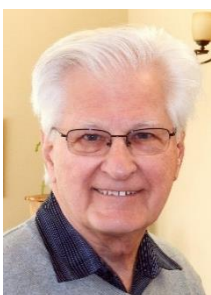
LWV remains committed to fighting suppression tactics that threaten our democracy and the right to vote. Throughout the 2016 election cycle, the League worked to make sure voters impacted by new laws were aware of these restrictions. Across the country, thousands of League volunteers served as non-partisan poll observers, staffed voter protection hotlines, and made sure get-out-the-vote phone banks reached as many voters as possible.



# LWVEA Holiday Party 2018







Photos courtesy of Richard Maurer.

*Many thanks to other team members Penny Peck, Carolyn Darcey, Hank Hansen, Rene' Besold, Janice Friesen, Aiwa Zelinsky, Marian Handa, plus entertainer Joel Wong and our fabulous auctioneers Ed and Jo Loss.*

*Sincere appreciation to all who donated to our very successful auction.*

## HOW THE STATE LEAGUE IS WORKING IN SACRAMENTO FOR ALL OF US!!

A full summary of the League of Women Voters of California's advocacy can be found in our [Bill Status Report for 2017-2018](#). The report is updated in real time during the legislative session and resides online at [lwvc.org/legislation](http://lwvc.org/legislation).

All of the letters that the League sends to legislators are appended to each bill summary. The following are a few highlights.

### Government

**Campaign finance reform** was a significant theme this cycle. The League helped lead the fight for transparency and to protect representative democracy against special interests. Three bills are of particular note.

- In 2017 we [advocated](#) for the successful passage of the California [DISCLOSE Act, AB 249](#). Seven years in the making, the new law requires transparency on funding behind ballot measure and candidate advertising. And League members across the state helped make it happen with a huge [outpouring of lobbying](#)
- Hot on the heels of the DISCLOSE Act was passage of the [Social Media DISCLOSE Act, AB 2188](#). This bill requires social media platforms, like Twitter and Facebook, to include a link to the top three funders behind “promoted” or “sponsored” ads; create a public database showing the political ads backed by committees; and provide a “View Ads” link on committee pages to allow easy viewing of purchased ads.
- The League was a major player in the [defeat of AB 84](#) a last minute gut and amend bill that would have increased money in California politics, protected incumbents, and consolidated power in legislative leadership. Our success in killing AB 84 was driven by [your grassroots activism](#), intensive advocacy with the [Fair Political Practices Commission](#) and the [Senate Elections Committee](#), and good old-fashioned shoe leather legislative lobbying.

**Vote-by-Mail (VBM)** is currently used by almost 60 percent of California voters and is growing in popularity. While the voting method is convenient, the League advocates to ensure that VBM is administered fairly and equitably so that all eligible votes are counted.

- Starting with this November's election [SB 759](#) will require elections officials to alert voters if there is a mismatch between the signature on their VBM envelope and the signature on file at the elections office, and to provide voters an opportunity to cure any issues. The bill represents a crucial advance, given the fact that [experts believe over 45,000 ballots were thrown out in November 2016](#) due to a signature mismatch, and that the problem has disproportionately [disadvantaged underrepresented populations](#).
- Concerns about equity, voter confusion, and consistency across the state also informed our work to pass [AB 216](#). The bill requires that, starting in 2019, all vote-by-mail return envelopes must be provided to voters with the postage prepaid.



## LWVC ACTION ALERTS THAT ARE ONGOING

**Bail Reform**, to eliminate the need for money in order to secure pre-trial release, was a [priority for us when it was introduced in 2017](#). Many of you joined in our [Action Alert to urge the passage of SB 10](#). Unfortunately, the bill was amended at the very end of the 2018 session to include a troubling presumption of preventative detention in exchange for the eradication of the commercial bail industry.

Furthermore, it employs bias-prone risk assessment tools and relies on judicial discretion without any institutional protections against racial bias in decision-making. We plan to look for opportunities to work with coalition partners and [support](#) amendments to the legislation.

### Natural Resources

**The Climate Change** fight, led by our [Climate Change Task Force](#) and coalition partners, gained major ground this session.

- In 2017, facing the looming 2020 expiration of cap and trade, advocates won a [ten year](#) extension through a 2/3 bipartisan vote on [AB 398 \(E. Garcia\)](#). Thanks to our Task Force and the [broad coalition](#), Californians will enjoy improvements to air quality with the passage of AB 398 and its companion bill [AB 617 \(Gomez\)](#).
- The passage of [SB 100 \(De León\)](#) was a victory, setting a goal to produce California's electricity using 100% zero carbon sources by 2045. Strong [Task Force lobbying](#), its collaboration with a large coalition, personal lobbying of targeted legislators (all of whom voted yes), and [League grassroots action](#) all contributed to this historic environmental advance. [Governor Brown's signing statement](#), while heralding the achievement, notes the work left to be done to "meet the existential threat of climate change" and the "miles to go before we achieve zero-carbon emissions."

### • Social Policy

**Criminal justice reforms**, to address blatant racial inequities in the treatment of similarly situated Black and White Californians, were a focus of League advocacy this cycle. We believe that it is crucially important to confront the fact people of color are far more likely to be stopped, searched, arrested, prosecuted, convicted, and incarcerated than are whites in our state. Furthermore, we work to move California away from incarcerating children and toward a focus on rehabilitation.

- [SB 180 \(Mitchell and Lara\)](#) repeals a three-year sentence enhancement for prior drug convictions, with the exception of convictions involving a minor.
- [SB 439 \(Mitchell and Lara\)](#) ensures that children under 12 can no longer be prosecuted for crimes other than certain violent felonies, including murder and sexual assault.
- [SB 1391 \(Lara and Mitchell\)](#) eliminates the ability to try a defendant under the age of 16 as an adult, which would lead to prison if convicted. Juvenile offenders convicted under the new law would be held in locked juvenile facilities instead of adult prison [SB 1421 \(Skinner\)](#), a bill that actually falls under the League's position on open government, increases transparency related to officer killings of civilians by expanding access to personnel and video records. It opens public access to internal investigations of police shootings and other incidents where an officer killed or seriously injured someone, as well to sustained findings of sexual assault and lying on the job.
- [AB 931 \(Weber and McCarty\)](#), is another bill that [we advocated for](#) pursuant to the League's Government positions. It would have raised the state standard for using lethal force from "reasonable" (when a reasonable officer in similar circumstances would have acted the same way) to "necessary," (when there are no alternatives for police to consider in that situation). While the bill failed to pass in this session, the League hopes to support similar legislation expected to be introduced next year.

**Protecting the rights of immigrant families** from an anticipated mass deportation policy under the new federal administration was another area of successful League advocacy this cycle. Most notably we supported the passage of SB 54 (De León), the California Values Act, a bill prohibiting local authorities from inquiring about immigration status during routine activities. League members across California stood up and were counted in this victory.

**Alleviating California's housing crisis** was the purpose of the League's support of SB 828 (Wiener). This bill requires local governments to zone to accommodate existing and projected local housing needs, and it prevents previous underproduction or stable population from being used to justify a determination or a reduction in the jurisdiction's share of the regional housing need.

**Quality, affordable childcare and education** was the subject of a number of bills supported by the League this cycle. One notable disappointment was the Governor's veto of AB 60 (Santiago), a bill allowing families receiving state subsidized early care and education services to remain eligible for services for a full twelve months before requiring recertification. We argued that AB 60 would provide much needed continuity of care and education for children and a degree of financial stability for their low-income families. While agreeing with the need, Governor Brown noted that the "bill impacts an entitlement program and the changes contemplated in this bill have the potential to cost the state \$50 million a year and is more properly considered as part of the budget process."

## DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION GOAL OF LEAGUE AT EVERY LEVEL

### United States

America's demography is changing—and the nation's economic fate will hinge on how we respond to these changes. As the population grows more diverse and people of color become the majority, equity—just and fair inclusion—has become an urgent economic imperative. Reversing the trends of rising inequality and stagnant wages, and ensuring that everyone can participate and prosper are critical to build a strong, competitive economy in the decades to come.

### The Face of America is Changing

The United States is undergoing a profound demographic transformation in which people of color are quickly becoming the majority. Already more than half of all children under age five are of color, and by 2044, people of color will be the majority overall. This shift is happening not only in cities, the traditional bastions of diversity, but also in suburban and rural communities across the country.

Diversity is increasing - America is becoming a true world nation that is increasingly multiracial and multicultural. In 1980, 80 percent of the population was White. By 2044, a majority of Americans will be people of color.

### Communities of color are driving growth

In the past decade, almost all net population growth in the United States (92 percent) came from people of color, and in many places, growing communities of color prevented population decline. Latinos had the highest growth rate (43 percent), followed by Asians, people with mixed racial backgrounds, African Americans, and Native Americans. The white population grew just one percent nationally, and declined in many communities.

## 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Dues:** Regular \$60

2<sup>nd</sup> 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.*

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## CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT
March 12	5:30pm	Meet Your Elected Officials—See Page 1 for details

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out**

[www.lwvea.org](http://www.lwvea.org)