



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol.61 #6 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* June 2018

REMINDER: LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDEN AREA

CALL TO 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

All members of the League of Women Voters Eden Area are hereby called to the Annual Meeting.

DATE: Saturday, June 2, 2018

TIME: 9:30am to 12:30pm

PLACE: Castro Valley Adult School

4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley, CA

(Map and Direction link:

<http://www.cvadult.org/contact/map-and-directions>)

Special presentation on funding the California public employees' retirement system, featuring Fran David, retired Hayward City Manager:

Why Do I Care about Public Pensions – Just Fix It!?

Public salaries are way out of whack – Why isn't the problem getting fixed?

Why does 80% of my city's General Fund goes to employee compensation?

Cities/Counties need to raise revenue - How many more taxes can I stand?

Those attending the League Business Meeting which includes electing a new board for 2018-19, are asked to RSVP to lwvea@aol.com, or phone (510) 826-6674. RSVP early, limited seating. See the May VOTER more info.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 5TH!

LWVC recommendations on the propositions:

- [Prop68](#) - YES ☒ Water and parks for all
- [Prop69](#) - YES ☒ Car fees and taxes
- [Prop70](#) - NO ☒ Greenhouse gas reduction fund
- [Prop71](#) - YES ☒ Date of Initiative
- [Prop72](#) - YES ☒ Property tax and rain water

[Read and share our Vote with the League flyer!](#)

How did we decide? Read more on [how we take action.](#)

Want daily shareable info? Like us on [Facebook](#) & follow us on [Twitter](#).

Looking for local election info? View your entire ballot! Use [Voter's Edge California](#) to view your entire ballot by entering your address at www.votersedge.org/ca



CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT



Moving Forward with a New Focus and Continuous Passion for the League

Dear LWVEA board and members,

We had no way of knowing in June 2016, when we headed to Washington, D.C., for the 52nd convention of the League of Women Voters of the United States, how close we would become and what a ride it would be as co-presidents of LWVEA for the next two years. An alliance was begun and a friendship was forged by attending the convention together. In awe of what we had experienced, we came home to LWVEA committed to the League of Women Voters new theme: MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

Since then, we think we have talked together on average every other day for two years! Topic: the business of the Eden Area League: about leadership, team building, voter services, voter registration, program planning, positions development, policies and procedures, membership, outreach, election services, community participation and activities and relationships, board meetings, retreats, committee meetings, interactions with other Leagues: local, regional, state, national, exploring new ideas, and putting out a fire or two! Never far away, our amazing Board and League members, volunteers and friends, advisors, and mentors stood ready to support and guide us. We knew without each and every one of you there would be no Eden Area League of Women Voters.

In the February 2016 VOTER we asked the question: What's next? That was only months before a presidential election. We joined with Leagues across the country to reaffirm our commitment to defend our democracy, protect voters, register voters, educate and advocate, sponsor events and forums. Today we ask the same question: What's next? We face enormous challenges with midterm elections underway and in a mere two years a presidential election. We find LWVEA members more vibrant and more determined and more dedicated and up to the challenges than ever before. We have witnessed what is meant by "together there is nothing that we can't do". For some things there is little rest. We are called to be vigilant and we are called to action again and again and the League always shows up.

As for us, while it's the end of a two-year term as co-presidents, we look forward to continuing to participate in the vital and important work of the LWVEA. It is enormously gratifying to be part of something larger than oneself, to support the mission and philosophy of the League of Women Voters, to have opportunities and the hope of contributing positively. It is humbling to be with people who are smart and strong and vital and who are amazingly generous in spirit.

A profound thank you for the opportunity to be with you on this fantastic journey as together we are MAKING DEMOCRACY WORK!

We offer our sincerest best wishes to Penny Peck, incoming LWVEA president, and the new board as they begin their new roles and responsibilities on July 1st, 2018.

Sincerely,
Joanne Young and Aiwa Zelinsky
Co-presidents
Eden Area League of Women Voters

Regional Measure 3

The Bay Area League has endorsed transportation Measure 3; for Pros and Cons go to: <http://lwvbayarea.org/regional-measure-3>.

RECOGNITION OF OUR MOST RECENT LWVEA LIFETIME MEMBER

WELCOME ALISON LEWIS...HER STORY

In 1920, Eleanor Roosevelt helped found the League of Women Voters. What a thrill to feel I've shared almost half of the League's existence with her!



My fifty years in the League started in 1967 and had several eras – times when family, work, and other activities interlaced with League in different ways. I'm sure this pattern is familiar to many of us.

- I joined the League at age 25. First came my stay-at-home babies' time 1967- later 1970s. I also finished my PhD, taught part-time at Chabot, and published a history of the Lamplighters in San Francisco.

- Then in the 1980s with our two children in school, I took on full-time work at Eden Youth Center, and various local community issues such as public libraries.

- Then in the 1990s we ushered our children through college, I worked full-time with County Supervisor Gail Steele, and undertook selected community action including joining the Chabot-Las Positas Board of Trustees in 1991.

- From early 2000s onward, I gradually found myself reducing activities: work became part-time, I resigned from the Chabot-Las Positas Board in 2008, and fully retired when Gail Steele retired from the Board of Supervisors. I have gradually subsided into family life and continue to support groups working to achieve goals I no longer can pursue.

So where has the League fit in? In many valuable ways.

For my early years, the League was the backbone of about half of my “free” time and interests. I started right out attending unit meetings (they had babysitters!), attended program planning and annual meetings; presented Pros & Cons, ran candidates' nights on local TV and in live meetings; I lined up and took my turn as League vice-president and president in the early 1980s, then did the cut-and-paste newsletter for several years, then joined the nominating committee, and so on, trying to be useful when I could.

All the way through, I have loved the open, non-partisan, and issue-based League approach to community life. I learned and honor the careful procedures through which League members study issues, reach consensus, and take action. And I admire enormously all hard-working League members who continue to make League a trusted name in the tense and contentious arenas of local, state, and national politics. Eleanor Roosevelt would be proud of us all.

A Tribute to our 50-year, Lifetime Members

What a great story from Alison! We are so very fortunate to have six Lifetime Members in our League. These women exemplify dedication and community service. Their life-long commitment to the League's non-partisan approach and rigorous and inclusive policy development speaks volumes about their commitment to public service and to their personal values. It is because of women like this that Eleanor Roosevelt's League of Women Voters have sustained and grown strong over the years.

We stand on their shoulders and from there look out into the future. It is from the foundation they have constructed with their hard work and dedication that we can continue to build a path forward for the next generation to assure that there will always be a thoughtful, non-partisan voice participating in the public discourse; to know that inclusive and deliberative process will always be the strongest way to build consensus and develop good policy.

*Thank you **Alison, Malca Chall (63 yrs), Joan Weber (59 yrs), Gail Steele (53 yrs), Evelyn Cormier (52 yrs), and Susan Merrill.** We would still be struggling to rise out of the quagmire of ignorance and extreme partisan politics without you. However, with the legacy you have given us, the League is a beacon of light in a world full of dark political turmoil. We honor you. Love you. And we hold you dear to our hearts as we strive to follow in your footsteps and build a better, more inclusive democracy guided by engaged and informed voters.*

District Attorney Forum Draws a Large Audience



The Alameda County District Attorney Candidates Forum drew a standing room only crowd at the San Lorenzo Library on Monday, May 21, 2018. The candidates Nancy O'Malley (incumbent) and Pamela Price both had supporters in the crowd, and everyone was riveted by the spirited yet civil debate. Janice Friesen, LWVEA board member and former Castro Valley school board member, was adept at rewording some of the audience questions so they were applicable to both candidates. Thanks to Janice, timer Carolyn Darcey, and everyone who assisted.

The forum was co-sponsored by APAPA (the Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs) and the LWVEA (League of Women Voters Eden Area). The San Lorenzo Library was the host and also a co-sponsor, and live-streamed the event on Facebook. If you missed the forum, you can watch the video here: www.facebook.com/SanLorenzoLibrary/

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We have three new members: Lani Llamido, Stephanie Leveene and Lisa Ballard. We welcome you and hope to see you soon at one of our League events.

The Membership Team held a New Member Social on Tuesday, May 15th. We had a good turnout and a nice mix of new members, Board members and one potential new member. The

Team hopes to have another social soon for our newest members and those who couldn't join us for this one.

Anyone interested in joining us for the next social can email me with their preferred days and times so everyone has an opportunity to learn about our League and how we make democracy work.

Carolyn Darcey
Membership Chair

Schools and Communities First Forum on Closing Tax Loophole



On April 19, 2018, the League of Women Voters Eden Area

sponsored an educational forum at Hayward City Hall on the efforts to reform Prop. 13 – what the League of Women California calls Schools and Communities First. Approximately 40 attended the forum, featuring LWVC President Helen Hutchison, and Evolve Campaign Director Ben Grief. They described the efforts by the League and other groups to gather signatures to put the changes to Prop. 13 on the November 2020 ballot. Thanks to Rita Duncan and Lynda Foster for organizing this event. For more information on this project, see: <https://lwvc.org/our-work/issues/government/schools-and-communities-first>.

Forum on Environmental Crimes: There will be a forum on **Environmental Crimes: How to Identify and Report**, to be held on June 12, 2018, 6-8pm, at the Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave. The forum is sponsored by the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, The League of Women Voters Eden Area, and the Southern Alameda County Group of the Sierra Club.

LWVUS WILL FIGHT CENSUS UNNECESSARY CITIZENSHIP QUESTION IN 2020 CENSUS



When the US Commerce Department announced that the Census Bureau will include a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census, they made a decision that will have

a negative impact on all residents in communities around this country announced the National League.

“This unnecessary question is invasive and will raise concerns about the confidentiality of personal information in the upcoming Census report,” said Chris Carson, LWVUS president. “This intrusive question will cause participation in the Census to plummet and an inaccurate Census report will have a lasting consequence on residents throughout the country,” said Carson.

Our leaders rely on Census data to allocate resources for public assistance programs including public safety planning and disaster response education needs hospitals, assistance for veterans and transportation. Our business developers use Census data to make investment decisions that boost economic growth for California.

The League of Women Voters—local, state and national—calls on our elected officials at all levels, to speak out and oppose the citizenship question in the 2020 Census. We must send a strong message to Congress to reverse this decision and remove the citizenship question from the Census.

The stakes are too high to allow this unnecessary question to derail the count.

LWVUS, LWVC, LWVEA

VOTER REGISTRATION EFFORTS

April and May 2018 saw several voter registration events at festivals, BART, Farmers' Markets, and other venues. If you would like to volunteer for late summer/early autumn voter registration events, please contact Richard Maurer at: prmaurer3130@att.net.



Aiwa Zelinsky and Richard Maurer at REACH



Winnie Thompson and Liz Bathgate

Why ranked-choice voting should be used throughout California

San Francisco voters will go to the polls on June 5 to elect a mayor and a District Eight supervisor with an innovative voting method called ranked-choice voting. As in a growing number of cities, voters will select their favorite candidate, but they will also be able to rank their second and third choices in case their favorite does not win.

We use many electoral methods in the United States. San Francisco elects school board members at large, with several seats elected at once, but the city elects the Board of Supervisors from one-seat, geographically defined districts. California holds a November runoff for congressional and state offices between the top two finishers in the primary election, yet a presidential candidate can win California's electoral votes with only a plurality of the popular vote. Nationally, the electoral college doesn't consider the presidential popular vote at all.

So there is no single method for electing our representatives. But the old methods are often no longer working well. Innovation in our electoral procedures can reduce the paralyzing polarization in our politics by generating more choice for voters, more openness, and more incentives to compromise.

Under ranked-choice voting, winning candidates must appeal to a majority of voters, because if no one gains a majority of first rankings, then the least popular candidates are eliminated one by one. Their voters' second and third preferences are then redistributed to the remaining candidates until someone emerges with a majority. The winning candidate often has to build coalitions and win votes from the supporters of other candidates, making it more likely that the winner will listen to what voters think and be more open to compromise.

Because candidates must try to win the second and third preference votes of their opponents in order to win, elections with ranked-choice voting tend to produce less vitriol and negative advertising. And having ultimately won a majority of votes, the successful candidate then has a stronger and broader mandate to govern.

Ranked-choice voting gives voters the freedom to express their real preferences. They no longer have to worry that they might waste their vote by casting it for a longshot. They can vote their conscience or their heart with a first preference, rank their "less bad" option second and another third. These votes will only be cast if their first (or second) choices have been eliminated.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES IN ALAMEDA COUNTY



How to Identify and Report

WHEN:

June 12, 2018, 6-8 PM

WHERE:

Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, Castro Valley

WHAT:

A collaboration between the Alameda County District Attorney's Office, The League of Women Voters Eden Area, and The Southern Alameda County Group of the Sierra Club

Description:

In this presentation a panel of environmental law experts from the Alameda County District Attorney's office will identify the most common environmental crimes in the Bay Area, provide resources to better understand their impact on the environment and empower attendees with tools/resources to help identify and report environmental crimes in our 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 _____

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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CALENDAR

Sat., June 2, 2018
9:30am-Noon

Annual Membership Meeting

Castro Valley Adult School
4430 Alma Ave., Castro Valley

Sat., July 21, 2018
9am-Noon

Board Retreat

San Leandro Library
300 Estudillo Ave., San Leandro

Mon., Aug. 27, 2018
5:30-7:30pm

Board Meeting

Location – to be determined

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

www.lwvea.org