



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol.60 #3 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation March 2017

**COME MEET AND GREET
YOUR EDEN AREA
ELECTED LEADERS**

**Friday, March 10
5:00 to 7:00 pm**

Hayward City Hall 2nd floor
777 B Street, Hayward

Elected leaders who represent the Eden Area have been invited to meet their constituents from: Hayward, San Leandro and the surrounding unincorporated areas of Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Cherryland, Ashland and Fairview.

A representative from each of the jurisdictions has been asked to give a brief presentation relating to the past accomplishments of their office and goals for 2017-18. The program will be held in the Hayward City Hall Chambers courtesy of the Hayward City Council.

During the reception, the elected leaders will be available to answer questions from their constituents individually.

Please rsvp to lwvea@aol.com for this free program as soon as possible. Questions? Contact Suzanne Barba 510.538.9678

CO-PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Priority and Action: Focus Our Energy and Resources for Success

In our last report we reviewed the call from Chris Carson, the president of LWVUS as to what critical actions the League should take now to continue to make democracy work. In responding to the calls from the national and state league, our Eden Area local league sprang into action and continues our effort to engage our local community and move forward.

On January 14th, our League had its program planning meeting. This meeting was held for the purpose of providing our local input for the state priority and to add our local league's voice in the process of deciding where and how we will focus our resources—member time, money, reputation—over the next two year of 2017-2019. Together, as one voice, our local league members actively participated in this process, studied issues at the state and local level and jointly decided on our focus.

The top two areas that LWVEA would like LWVC to focus on are Water Resources and Education. In addition, LWVEA will submit our Library position as one of our recommended issues for state program planning to adopt by concurrence at the state convention.

Now the priority is set and it is time for all of us to focus our resources and energy to make impact with accountable actions. We are calling upon every member to focus his or her time and efforts effectively by being involved in league activity, engaging voters, defending environment, encouraging informed and active participation in government, influencing public policy through education and advocacy.

We ask each one of us to attend our league events, be involved, and encourage others to join the league so as to mobilize the public, expand the influence to make a difference. With the valuable and accountable support and involvement from each of us, the priorities we set for our League will be accomplished. It is time for all of us to put our words and thoughts into action for the success of our League!

“My philosophy is that not only are you responsible for your life, but doing the best at this moment puts you in the best place for the next moment” (Oprah Winfrey)

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



NEW MEMBER SOCIAL

A small group of our current and legacy leaders invite our new members, to join us for wine/coffee and light hors d'oeuvres at the home of our Membership Director, Carolyn Darcey.

We want to discuss our priorities for 2017 with you; and to explore how these priorities may or may not coincide with your interests and why you joined this dynamic and respected organization.

We are meeting on Tuesday, March 14th 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Hope to see you there! (If you are an “older” member and are interested in joining in on the discussion, you are welcome also). RSVP to Carolyn, 510 538-4018 or cdarcey@pacbell.net.



By: **Lloyd Leonard, LWVUS**

The next Supreme Court nominee, whom President Trump will nominate this week, will play a major role in the course for American democracy over the coming decades. That may seem like an exaggeration, but the Supreme Court is currently divided four to four on most major issues. The incoming justice will ultimately be the deciding vote on crucial issues that shape the direction of our country.

The League of Women Voters believes that any Supreme Court nominee should share his or her views on fundamental issues. We have three questions for the nominee:

1. Must the Executive Branch obey court orders from the federal judicial system?

Our system of checks and balances is the basic tenet of a free democracy. To prevent authoritarianism, the Founders made sure that that no one branch of the
(continued on page 3)

government could dominate the others. But in recent days, it appears that the Executive Branch is challenging that system by refusing to obey the federal court orders. The Supreme Court nominee must take a stand, one way or the other, on the role of federal courts in our system of government.

2. What is the appropriate role for voting rights in our democracy?

Our nation was founded on a belief that voters should be in charge of our government rather than government being in charge of the voters. However imperfect at the beginning, citizen-voting rights have grown through constitutional amendments to include women, racial and ethnic minorities and young people.

But we are seeing efforts to roll back voting rights, with laws designed to make it more difficult for people to exercise their right to vote. The Supreme Court nominee should let the American people know his or her position, whether voting rights enforcement is a vital component of our representative democracy or if the nominee thinks limitations can be justified under our Constitution.

3. Is big money in politics a fundamental part of our electoral system, or can limits sometimes be justified?

Some believe that corporations, organizations and individuals should be able to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence elections, and to do so secretly. Others see this as an existential threat to our democracy. The Supreme Court nominee should state his or her beliefs related to the influence of money in our elections.

Judicial nominees should not be required to tell us how they would decide future cases, but they should share with the public the basic principles they support or oppose. For the Senate to carry out its constitutional duty to advise and consent on judicial nominees, truthful answers about basic principles are required. A presidential nomination is not a blank check. The Constitution requires the Senate to do its duty.

The League of Women Voters United States urges the Senate to explore these three fundamental questions with any nominee before voting to confirm or reject the next Supreme Court justice.



In Memory of Carol Norberg 1925-2017

We were so sorry to learn that Carol Norberg, a long time League member passed away in February. She was always interested in Women’s Rights and Women’s History which is evident when she was chosen for the Eleanor Roosevelt award as one who exemplifies her passion for doing what she thinks needs to be done.

When the family settled in San Leandro, Carol didn’t commit to PTA until the last of her four children entered kindergarten. Then she researched ways that parents could help their children learn, wrote an advice column for the PTA newsletter that she edited, and produced booklets on ways in which kindergarten parents could prepare their children to enter school.

Carol got her degree from UC Berkeley in 1947 and then earned a teaching credential from CSU Hayward so she could work as a substitute teacher. She volunteered in school affairs for another 10 years before moving to Roseville.

As vice president of the Roseville Historical Society, she took a major part in the planning for the renovation of the Carnegie Library into a museum, writing extensively for publicity, speaking to organizations for support and organizing fund-raisers. She raised enough money to rent the old theater and bring a noted women’s historian to portray Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

By this time, she had become known as a community firebrand as she agitated for affordable housing and homeless shelters. Over the years she spent a good deal of time fighting anti-choice activists who would block the dissemination of birth control information, purchase and use of contraceptives, sex education in the schools, as well as attempts to place stealth candidates on school boards.

As an educator, she wrote newspaper articles declaiming sexual harassment, oral and physical violence, and discrimination in hiring, wages and pensions. As an historical researcher she created displays and exhibits in public places for special days, weeks and months on all aspects of women’s history

including Suffrage and Military service.

Carol joined the LWVEA when it was just the San Leandro league in 1967. Then she and her husband Mark joined the Oakland League in 2006 and the LWV Eden Area in 2012. Carol was an active member of the League and she and Mark attended forums and supported League initiatives and goals until the “firebrand” passed away.

There will be a memorial service for Carol some time in April but plans have not been confirmed yet. If you would like to drop the family a note, the address is 1500 Senicview Drive, San Leandro, 94577.

League Opposes End to Voting Agency Passed by House Panel

by Sarah Courtney LWVUS

Abolishing the Election Assistance Commission is “Irresponsible”

Washington, DC - Today the House Administration Committee voted to terminate the federal Election Assistance Commission (EAC), the only federal agency devoted exclusively to improving election administration on a bi-partisan basis. The EAC Termination Act was sponsored by the committee chairman, Rep. Gregg Harper.

“Eliminating the bi-partisan EAC is an irresponsible decision by the House Administration Committee,” said **Chris Carson**, President of the League of Women Voters of the U.S. “This legislation leaves voting machine standards in limbo just as machines around the country are reaching the end of their useful lives.”



The EAC does invaluable work to improve our nation's election system on a voluntary, non-regulatory basis. The bi-partisan organization seeks to ensure the efficacy, reliability, and trustworthiness of our nation's election systems by conducting research, collecting data, and sharing information among elected officials, the public, and interested organizations. It was set up by the Help America Vote Act, which was adopted after the controversial presidential election in 2000.

"Controversies about the accuracy, conduct and participation in American elections are on the rise," Carson said, "and abolishing the EAC is exactly the wrong thing to do. This is not the time to sweep problems under the rug."

"Rather than eliminating the EAC, Congress should provide the agency with resources and a renewed commitment to sponsoring and encouraging information sharing among state and local officials, EAC committees, the non-partisan voting rights community, technical experts and others," Carson said.

"Elections are the life blood of a democracy. The League of Women Voters strongly opposes this legislation," Carson concluded.

CALIFORNIA WATER ISSUE

During our recent LWVEA Program Planning meeting, the issue of Water was selected as the first priority to forward to the LWVC. Here is some background information. It can also provide you with questions to ask your local state representatives when they have their town hall meetings.

The LWVC Water Committee monitors and recommends action on issues concerning water in our state. The committee is always interested in learning

about major water initiatives going forward around the state.



WATER: Finite Supplies, Competing Demands

Voters will continue to face large water-related expenditures in the coming years. Making informed decisions on these investments in managing California's water resources is difficult, given unclear answers to key questions such as:

- How should limited and unpredictable freshwater supplies be allocated among competing municipal, industrial, agricultural, and environmental uses?
- Who is responsible and accountable for managing surface water and groundwater supplies and quality?
- How much will it cost to ensure safe and reliable supplies for a growing population and for damaged ecosystems?
- How will we pay to build new infrastructure and maintain aging infrastructure to deal with drought, flood risks, and climate fluctuations?
- Who should pay?

Since 1976, California's voters have passed 11 state-level bond measures totaling \$15.215 billion. These bonds have funded projects intended to ensure stable supplies of drinking water, control floods, and protect the environment.

Sustainable Groundwater Management

State legislation passed in 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), requires local water managers throughout the state to develop plans to sustainably manage over-drafted aquifers. SGMA gives the State Water Resources Control Board authority to restrict groundwater pumping in sub-basins that do not develop approved sustainability plans. See our [2016 Groundwater Update](#) for more details.

Bay-Delta issues

Millions of urban water users around California and hundreds of thousands of acres of agricultural land rely on water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the San Francisco Bay Estuary. Since 2007, efforts by state and federal water project contractors have been underway to ensure more reliable water deliveries while restoring collapsing ecosystems in the Delta and Estuary.

The original planning effort, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan, was supplanted in 2015 by Eco-Restore, a plan to deal with ecosystem issues, and Water-Fix, the plan to build two 35-mile tunnels under the Delta to deliver Sacramento River water directly to export pumps.

The fate of Water-Fix will be determined by:

- environmental impacts of the tunnels project on the Delta and the Estuary
- willingness of the State Water Resources Control Board to approve new points in the north Delta for diverting water for export
- willingness and ability of agricultural and urban beneficiaries to pay for the cost of the project, estimated at about \$16 billion excluding interest and any cost overruns.

- See more at:
<https://lwvc.org/issues/california-water-resources-sthash.XIhtDkuf.dpuf>

HOUSING ISSUES ARTICLES IN LWV BAY AREA MONITOR

BUILDING BREATHABLE NEIGHBORHOODS

By Leslie Stewart, Bay Area Monitor

Regional agencies, housing advocates, and local decision makers recognize that the Bay Area needs more housing to accommodate its population. In figuring out where to build it, many have been promoting infill development to take advantage of established transit corridors and existing infrastructure.

Placing housing near services and facilities allows residents to commute or shop without depending on cars, which in turn improves air quality by reducing emissions from traffic. However, that doesn't mean such neighborhoods will enjoy especially clean air. Many potential infill sites are located in areas currently affected by air pollution from nearby industrial operations, freeways, ports, or rail facilities.

For example, regional plans call for intensified development within approximately 170 designated [Priority Development Areas](#), most of which involve some infill. There is significant overlap between Priority Development Areas and another set of areas which experience elevated pollution levels, as identified by the [Bay Area Air Quality Management District's](#) CARE (Community Air Risk Evaluation) Program.

"As part of the focus on reducing air pollution, there is a focus on restructuring development patterns to be infill," said Phil Martien, an air quality engineering manager for the agency. "But," he added, "there are areas where we think we need to pay particular attention to air pollution."

To read more go to:
<http://bayareamonitor.org/read/>

BAY AREA MONITOR



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area Education Fund

CAN WE QUENCH BOTH THE THIRST FOR HOUSING AND HOUSING'S THIRST?

By Robin Meadows, Bay Area Monitor

The San Francisco Bay Area is likely to be a lot more crowded in the near future, adding a projected 2 million people to the 7.5 million who already live here over the next quarter century. Planners traditionally focus on meeting housing and transportation needs as the region grows. But more people also means more demand for water — and choices we make today will determine how far our water goes in the future. Now, regional planners have begun to address the disconnect between land use and water supply.

Whether or not we have enough water for growth depends on factors including climate change and the way we grow. “Climate change is a little out of our control, so we should focus on what we can control: the urban form and water efficiency,” said Laura Tam, sustainable development policy director of [SPUR](#), a nonprofit dedicated to urban planning. “If we can sustain the current rate of water conservation, we could add only a fraction of water use even if we add millions of people to the Bay Area,” she explained.

To read more go to:

<http://bayareamonitor.org/read/>



Suzanne Barba is retiring....

In June, 2017, Suzanne Barba will be retiring from her position as VOTER Editor and a very long term (eighteen years) Board member. Suzanne served four years as Eden Area’s President, ten years as the VOTER Editor, a few years as Secretary, and served on almost every Committee the League has. Suzanne has been a model Board member dedicating at least 20 hours a week to League activities. She has been an outstanding mentor to many new Board members over the years.

Suzanne represents all that the League stands for: service to others; education of voters; conscientious thought about and analysis of the issues; dedication to transparency and an open and inclusive process; and personal ethics. In 2016, Suzanne was selected by the Alameda County Commission on the Status of Women to the Woman’s Hall of Fame, which honors outstanding local women for their contributions to their community. Over the years, Suzanne’s tireless community activism has been an energizing force that has inspired many to give back to their community. It also led to her being named Woman of the Year for California’s 18th Assembly District in 2003.

Suzanne will soon be moving to Oakland to begin a new chapter in her life. Words cannot begin to express the extraordinary service Suzanne has devoted to our League. Her retirement will leave a huge gap in our organization and our activities. Suzanne, you have been a special friend, colleague, and mentor to all of us. We wish you an adventurous, delightful, and wonderful retirement. We know you will remain accessible to all of us via phone as we continue your work moving our League forward.

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 \$50,
 2nd 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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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CALENDAR

DATE / TIME	EVENT	PLACE
March 10 5-7pm	Meet Your Elected Leaders	Hayward City Hall, 2 nd Floor
March 14 5:30-7 pm	New Member Social	RSVP to Carolyn, 510 538-4018 or cdarcey@pacbell.net .
March 17 5:45-7:30	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Area Historical Society

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