



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol.62 #7 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation Nov/Dec 2019

100th Anniversary Celebration

*League of Women Voters – Eden Area
19th Amendment Centennial Celebration*

December 8, 2019

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

San Leandro Senior Center

13909 East 14th Street

San Leandro, CA

RSVP – joloss cv@gmail.com

Sips and Civility Event on Climate Change

Join us for a League of Women



Voters Eden Area Sips & Civility discussion on Climate Change, facilitated by April Oquenda, LWVC Legislative Analyst for Climate Change. We will also be welcoming our new members!

This event will be held on Wed. Nov. 6, 2019, 6:00-7:30pm, at the home of Carolyn Darcey, 20172 Brittany Ct., Castro Valley, 94546. Please RSVP using this Eventbrite link: www.eventbrite.com/e/sips-civility-league-of-women-voters-eden-area-tickets-74573548491?aff=utm_source%3Ddeb_email%26utm_medium%3Demail%26utm_campaign%3Dnew_event_email&utm_term=eventurl_text.

GIVE A HOLIDAY GIFT OF LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP

Do you have a close friend who talks to you about wanting to do something to address the division in our country and the stalemate in both the Senate and the Congress? If so, why don't you give him or her a one-year membership to LWVEA? Let them know that you've heard their frustration and the best way to address it is to get involved. Remind them that by getting involved, they can help bring about positive change. For membership information, go to our website: <https://my.lwv.org/california/eden-area/join-league>.

President's Report

Congratulations to our LWVEA board



member Lynda Foster, who was recently appointed to the Alameda County Measure A1 Oversight Committee. Lynda will be a great asset to this

committee due to her business background and experience in the League; we thank her for her willingness to serve.

Many of our members are elected officials or serve on these community boards – as volunteers (or for very low honoraria). If you have been thinking about volunteering for a community board or committee but are unsure if you can manage the time commitment, I urge you to check into the matter. Some of our committees are important but only meet a few times a year, such as a school district's oversight committee, which examines bond measure expenditures and procedures. All of our local school boards have bond measures, and by law must have oversight committees.

Other local committees or boards needing volunteers can be county or city groups advising elected officials regarding senior citizens, health care, school district matters such as the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), library services, and more. If you have interest in any of these areas, you could be a real asset to these boards. You don't have to be an expert, just an interested resident, as they will provide you with plenty of reading materials on the matters you will be addressing.

As a school board trustee, I serve on my district's LCAP committee, which is mandated to have at least 51% of its membership be parents and grandparents. It is always difficult to obtain participation but those who serve have a great influence on our school district's budget priorities.

The same is true of city commissions; when I worked for the City of San Leandro our Library-Historical commissioners were vital supporters and gave us advice on our libraries and museum projects. During that time, both our main and largest branch libraries were rebuilt, and new history museum was built. None of these accomplishments could have happened without the commission's work.

Our league believes our members are vital community supporters, and would be talented contributors to these committees, so we urge you to check into your local community needs.

Penny Peck, LWVEA President

LWVEA OPEN HOUSE ANNOUNCED

Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020 is the date of the League of Women Voters Eden Area Open House, to be held at the Castro Valley Public Library, 3600 Norbridge Avenue, from 6:00-7:30pm. Please save the date!

This event will be part of the year-long celebration of the National League of Women Voters 100th anniversary. The Open House will feature speakers on league history, voting history, a celebration of members, information for those thinking of becoming members, entertainment, food, games, and prizes.

Please mark your calendars; more specific details on the speakers will be announced in the next issue of the VOTER. Please consider bringing a friend who is not a member but may be interested in joining!

Welcome New Members

Ronna Jojola Gonsalves is the Clerk of the Board for Alameda Health System, the safety net hospital system serving Alameda County. Previously she served as the Assistant or Deputy City Clerk for the Cities of Berkeley, Palo Alto, and Half Moon Bay. She has a degree in public administration.



Ronna and her husband chose to raise their family in the Eden area, Cherryland to be specific, and have lived there for over three decades. Ronna is a writer in her spare time and is a trained crisis counselor for Crisis Support Services of Alameda County where she answers calls as a volunteer.

Ronna joined the LWVEA because she is passionate about the democratic process and believes that educating the population, allowing them to make their own informed choices, is the only way forward. She hopes to participate in activities that directly educate the community and that specifically advocate for League positions.



Hello, my name is Margaret Rott. I am a retired technical writer living in San Leandro. I am originally from Lodi, CA. I attended public schools in Lodi and then graduated from

UC Santa Barbara where I majored in political science and the Italian language.

I began my career in Washington, DC. I worked as a secretary for HEW, the State Department, the White House staff, and Department of Transportation. I returned to California in 1975 when my boss in Washington asked me to join his staff at BART where he had been appointed General Manager. For the last 12 years of my career I found my niche and thoroughly enjoyed technical writing for two Silicon Valley firms.

I've had a varied and interesting career and am now ready to devote time to exploring other areas of interest. I am interested in the League

of Women Voters in particular for their activities in registering voters, educating voters on the issues, and getting out the vote. I look forward to joining you in preparing for the upcoming elections and beyond.

Membership Report: We want to welcome our new members, Pat Payne who joined in August, Peter Rosen who joined at the Castro Valley Fall Festival, Margaret Rott, and Ronna Jojola Gonsalves . We hope to see our new members at a LWVEA event soon. The Membership Committee hopes to see many members, both longtime and new, at our Sips & Civility event (see above) on November 6th.

Carolyn Darcey, LWVEA Membership Chair

HIGH SCHOOL VOTER REGISTRATION A HIT

Nearly 200 students at Moreau Catholic High School in Hayward registered to vote on Sept. 24 and 25, led by the students of the Social Justice Leadership club. Many of the students preregistered, as they were under age 18. Students seemed very interested in the upcoming election.

Student Rhea Kalra coordinated the classroom by classroom registration effort, with the help of faculty advisor Jericho Abanico. Special thanks to teacher Tyler Dragoni, who recommended to Rhea that she contact our league! Rhea and other students in the Social Justice club went to all of the 11th and 12th grade social studies classes over the two days.

Thanks to Marian Handa for arranging League volunteers to assist the students. Both Penny Peck and Linda Slater were able to help, and Marian and Linda were there on both days.

Hayward Rotary Offers Speakers

April Chan from the Hayward Rotary wanted to inform our members that they are opening their meetings to the community due to

demand. They feature interesting speakers; for example, former Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios will be the speaker at their November 18th meeting.

April Chan says "Meetings are held at 1074 B Street (the Masonic Hall). Meeting time is 12:00 - 1:30. Lunch is \$20 and our caterer is excellent, **Space is limited so please RSVP at your earliest convenience**". You can email at abchan411@gmail.com and please be sure to call me with any questions, 510-566-3909.

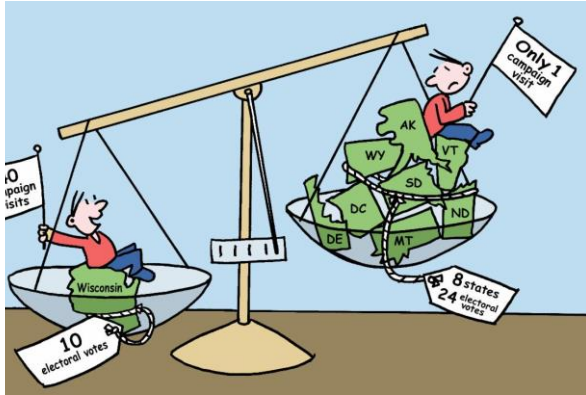
League T-Shirts Available at Amazon.com

Several LWVEA members are interested in wearing LWV T-Shirts at voter registration outreach events. These shirts are available in a variety of colors, sizes, and styles, and feature the LWV logo. We are not coordinating orders or paying for the shirts, but if you would like to order one for yourself, the link to the Amazon site is: www.amazon.com/Voter-Shirt-Service-League-Voters/dp/B07H3P79FC/ref=sr_1_1?crd=1MGYC1A3XU7D4&keywords=league%2Bof%2Bwomen%2Bvoters%2Bt%2Bshirt&qid=1569098545&s=gateway&sprefix=League%2Bof%2BWomen%2BVoter%2B%2Bt%2Bshirts%2Caps%2C235&sr=8-1&customId=B07537H5TD&th=1

Electoral College Misinformation and the Need for a National Popular Vote

We've all heard that low-population states are especially influential in electing the President because each state gets extra electoral votes corresponding to their Senators.

However, the political reality is that the current system **decreases the political clout** of small states in presidential elections.

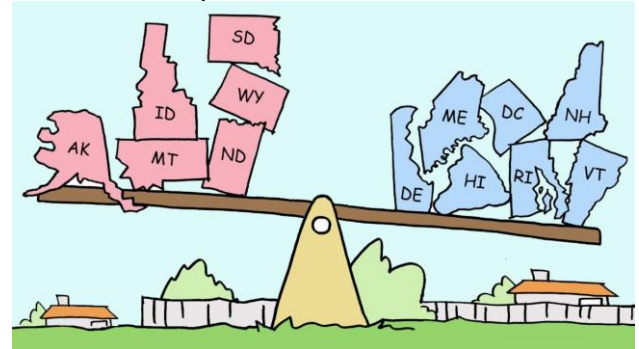


The eight least populous states (i.e., those with three electoral votes each) *together* received just one general-election campaign visit in 2008, 2012, and 2016 combined. Meanwhile, the closely divided battleground state of Wisconsin (with about the same population as the eight smallest states combined) received 40 visits. Wisconsin received more attention despite having only 10 electoral votes -- compared to the total of 24 for the eight smallest states.

Presidential candidates ignore the smallest states—not because they are small—but because they are predictable one-party states in presidential elections. Under the current state-by-state winner-take-all method of awarding electoral votes, political power and attention comes from being a closely divided battleground state -- not from a state's number of electoral votes. Wisconsin's 10 electoral votes attract 40 times more attention than the 24 electoral votes of the eight smallest states.

Contrary to myth, the small states (the 13 states with only three or four electoral votes) are not predominantly Republican in presidential elections. In fact, they are substantially tied. The 13 smallest states have split 7-to-6 (or 8-to-5) in favor of the Democrats in all but one presidential election since 1992. They have split 6-to-7 in favor of the Republicans once.

And, despite what you may have heard, President Trump did not win the Electoral College in 2016 because of small states. All of the 13 smallest states were won by the same party in 2016, 2012, 2008, and 2004. Among the 25 smallest states, Iowa was the only state to switch parties between 2012 and 2016, and Iowa's six electoral votes did not elect Trump.



The current state-by-state winner-take-all system actually shifts power from small and medium-sized states to an accidental handful of closely divided battleground states.

The fact that the small states are disadvantaged by the current state-by-state winner-take-all system has been long recognized by prominent officials from these states. In 1966, Delaware led a group of 12 predominantly small states in an unsuccessful lawsuit to get state winner-take-all laws declared unconstitutional.

Another indication that small states do not benefit from the current system is that Delaware, Hawaii, Rhode Island, Vermont, and the District of Columbia are among the 16 jurisdictions that have enacted the National Popular Vote interstate compact into law.

A nationwide vote for President offers a way for small states to make every one of their voters count directly toward the presidential candidate of their choice. It would make each of their voters as influential as a voter in Wisconsin or elsewhere. [Learn more](#)



League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and
unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo

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*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.*

For our Calendar of upcoming events, go to:

<https://my.lwv.org/california/eden-area>

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