



## League of Women Voters Eden Area

# VOTER

**Vol.61 #9 Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation Oct 2018**

The League of Women Voters Eden Area (LWVEA) is in the midst of 5 candidate forums for this election cycle. The first, on September 12, co-sponsored by the San Leandro Chamber of Commerce, took place at the SL library. Three council seats each had their own 40 minute forum followed by a 60 minute session for 4 candidates for Mayor of San Leandro. All were moderated by longtime League member Alice Sarafian.



On **October 4, at 5:30pm in the Hayward City Hall**, voters can attend the forum for City Council and for Mayor of Hayward. As in all LWV forums, after initial candidate opening remarks, written questions submitted by the audience will be asked by moderator Penny Peck, current LWVEA president.

The forum for the **Eden Township Health Care District Board, scheduled on October 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the San Lorenzo Library**, the co-sponsor for the event, will be moderated by Janice Friesen, Voter Services.

**The Castro Valley Library, co-sponsor of the forum on October 14 from noon until 4:00**, includes four races: Oro Loma Sanitary District Board, East Bay Municipal Utility District 7 Director, Fairview Hills Fire Department Directors and AC Transit District 4 Director.

The final forum for the election, on **October 18 from 5:30 -7:30pm at Hayward City Hall**, for the Hayward Unified School District will be moderated by Penny Peck. All LWV forums held at City Hall are co-sponsored by the City of Hayward.

The League appreciates all of our co-sponsors and community members who participate with their thoughtful questions, attention and informed voting on election day.

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### The League Launches New Online Voter Guide, Voter's Edge California

Get the facts before you vote on November 6! Visit [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca) before Election Day:

- Use your address to get a personalized ballot.
- Get in-depth info on candidates, measures, and who supports them.
- Check where, when, and how to vote.
- Keep track of your choices and use them to vote.
- Share and start the conversation!





## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

### **Voter Interest and the League**

Many of us who volunteer for League events have noticed a significant increase in the amount of voter interest for the November election. We have had more folks registering to vote at various events, and people ask about reregistering if they have moved. Local high schools are holding their own voter registration events or making time for our volunteers to come in and register students on the cusp of adulthood.

We have received several calls to bring the League's Pros and Cons presentations to churches, community groups, and senior residences – more than in previous recent elections. In fact, we have more interest than we have presenters!

There has also been more participation in our candidate forums. This includes a larger audience, and more people wanting to submit questions for the candidates. Most of our forums featured candidates for several different offices in the same community.

Unfortunately, there has been a decrease in candidates for some offices; the San Lorenzo, San Leandro, and Castro Valley school board candidates all ran unopposed. Many of these local elected offices take a great deal of time and dedication for no pay and office-holders are often victims of public shaming and harassment.

Still, it should be noted that the voter interest in learning about these elections, both local, state, and national offices, is refreshing. The League is here to encourage voting and to offer resources for voters to increase their knowledge of candidates and issues. I hope this spirit continues in future elections, where we will see greater voter turnout.

Penny Peck, President  
Eden Area League of Women Voters

## **BOARD BRIEFS**

### **Alameda County Affidavit Project**

At the recommendation of long-time member Nancy Van Huffel, the Board voted unanimously to have the LWVEA assume the financial and accounting responsibility for the LWV Alameda County Affidavit Project, formerly managed by the Piedmont League. Nancy is the LWVEA's point person for the project. Treasurer Hank Hansen will establish process to receive and administer the funds for affidavit dissemination.

### **Upcoming Candidate Forums**

Voter Services Chair Janice Friesen reported that the following Candidate Forums have been scheduled in October—  
*See page 1*

### **Pros and Cons Presentations**

Long-time member Suzanne Barba recently held a Pros and Cons training for several League members. Six Pros and Cons presentations have been scheduled so far, and the presentations that are open to the public will be listed on the LWVEA website.

### **Evaluating Measures for LWVEA Endorsement**

The issue was raised regarding the LWVEA's endorsement of local measures; specifically, whether the League considers the percentage each city or area pays vs. the benefit it receives. The Board would like to have a discussion with the membership, possibly as a topic for a future membership meeting.

**Interested in what our Bay Area LWV does? Sign up to be on their Voter Blast list.** Below you will find a link to the LWV Bay Area Voter-Blast

<http://lwvbayarea.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Sept-4-2018.pdf>

You can expect to see two LWVBA Voter Blasts per month.

## 1 Affordable Housing Bonds

*Legislative Statute*

**The way it is now:** Across the state, people are struggling to afford housing. The cost to rent or own a home in California is more expensive than in most of the country. To help provide housing to low-income and homeless residents, the state provides affordable loans to some home builders. These builders include local governments, nonprofits and some private companies. California also has a program that provides affordable home loans to military veterans.

**What Prop 1 would do if it passes:** Prop 1 would allow the state to sell \$4 billion in new bonds to pay for existing affordable housing programs. Money would go toward programs for:

- Low-income residents
- Veterans
- Housing near public transportation
- Farmworkers

Prop 1 bonds would provide housing for up to 30,000 low-income households and 7,500 farmworker households each year. Money from Prop 1 would also help 15,000 homebuyers with down payments and provide home loans to about 3,000 veterans every year.

**Effect on the state budget:** Repaying the bonds plus interest would cost the state about \$170 million each year for the next 35 years. This amount is about one-tenth of one percent of the state's current budget. The veterans' program will be no cost to the state.

### **YES** People for Prop 1 say:

- California needs housing for hardworking families, seniors and people with disabilities.
- Prop 1 honors veterans by helping them buy a home when they return from service.

### **NO** People against Prop 1 say:

- Prop 1 would only provide housing for a small number of people.
- If California keeps borrowing money, all residents will end up paying higher taxes.

## 2 Mental Health Housing Program

*Legislative Statute*

**The way it is now:** In 2004, voters approved Prop 63 to help pay for mental health services with a special tax on people making more than a million dollars each year. Prop 63 taxes raise between \$1.5 billion and \$2.5 billion each year. Counties spend this money on many different mental health services, including housing. In 2016, state lawmakers passed a bill that created a new mental health housing program to provide homes for people with mental illnesses who are facing homelessness. The state would like to use money from Prop 63 to help pay for the new mental health housing program. This requires voter approval or permission from the courts.

**What Prop 2 would do if it passes:** Prop 2 would allow the state to sell up to \$2 billion in bonds to help pay for the new mental health housing program. Up to \$140 million from Prop 63 funds could be used each year to pay for these bonds.

**Effect on the state budget:** Prop 2 will have no effect on the state budget. The new mental health housing program will be paid for using money the state already gets from Prop 63 taxes on people making more than \$1 million dollars a year. More money would be available for mental health housing. Less money would be available for county mental health services.

### **YES** People for Prop 2 say:

- The best way to help someone with mental illness is to get them a place to live.
- Prop 2 costs the state nothing and would provide housing for our most at-risk residents.

### **NO** People against Prop 2 say:

- Counties should make the decisions when it comes to housing for people with severe mental illnesses.
- Prop 2 will help home builders, instead of people with mental illnesses.

**3 Water Bonds**

*Initiative Statute*

**The way it is now:** Most of California’s water comes from rain and melted snow. This water usually starts in the mountains and flows down through the areas around streams and rivers called “watersheds.” Local governments spend about \$25 billion each year to protect watersheds against flood damage and provide clean water. In recent years, the state government has also spent about \$4 billion per year to support water and environmental projects. Sometimes, the state borrows money to pay for these projects. The state also uses money from California’s main budget, which is called the General Fund.

**What Prop 3 would do if it passes:** Prop 3 would allow the state to sell \$8.9 billion in new bonds to pay for water and environmental projects. Money would be spent on:

- Watershed protection
- Drinking water
- Dam and reservoir repairs
- Flood protection
- Fish and wildlife habitat improvements

**Effect on the state budget:** Paying back the bonds plus interest would cost the state about \$430 million each year for the next 40 years. Prop 3 would save local governments a couple hundred million dollars each year over the next 20-30 years.

**YES People for Prop 3 say:**

- Prop 3 will provide safe drinking water to millions of Californians.
- Our state must prepare now for future droughts and floods.

**NO People against Prop 3 say:**

- Prop 3 does not do enough to fix the state’s water shortage.
- Too much money will be spent on parks, hiking trails and wildlife.

**4 Children’s Hospital Bonds**

*Initiative Statute*

**The way it is now:** Thirteen hospitals in our state are considered “children’s hospitals.” These hospitals provide specialized care to infants and children with severe injuries and illnesses. Many children receiving care in these hospitals are from low-income communities. Children with difficult health conditions may receive support from the California Children’s Services (CCS) program. In the past, voters have approved two statewide bond measures to support children’s hospitals. These bonds have been used for new buildings, renovations and equipment. Most of the money from these bonds will run out by the end of this summer.

**What Prop 4 would do if it passes:** Prop 4 would allow the state to sell an additional \$1.5 billion in bonds for hospitals serving children. Money could be used for construction, building improvements and equipment. To receive funding, hospitals must prove that they will use the money to help children from low-income families and those who don’t have health insurance. Money from Prop 4 would go to children’s hospitals and other hospitals serving children in the California Children’s Services program.

**Effect on the state budget:** Paying back the bonds plus interest will cost the state about \$80 million each year for the next 35 years. This amount is less than one-tenth of one percent of the state’s current budget.

**YES People for Prop 4 say:**

- Children’s hospitals care for California’s most needy children, no matter what their families can pay.
- Prop 4 will help keep our hospitals up to date and ready to serve more children.

**NO People against Prop 4 say:**

- Prop 4 will require the state to borrow money and pay it back over many years.
- Instead of borrowing money, California should be looking at improving health care overall.

## 5 Property Tax Rules

Initiative - Constitutional Amendment & Statute

**The way it is now:** All homeowners are required to pay property taxes based on the value of their home. When people move into a new home, they often pay higher property taxes. California has special rules to allow some homeowners to buy a new home without paying higher property taxes. These rules apply to three types of homeowners: those who are 55 years or older; those with severe disabilities; and those whose homes have been affected by a natural disaster.

**What Prop 5 would do if it passes:** Prop 5 would expand the special property tax rules for homeowners who are 55 years or older, those with severe disabilities, and those whose homes have been affected by a natural disaster. These homeowners would be allowed to keep paying a similar amount in property tax no matter where they move in California or how many times they move. These homeowners could move to a cheaper home and pay lower property taxes than they are now. They could also move to a more expensive home and pay a smaller increase than what the rules allow now.

**Effect on the state budget:** If people pay lower property taxes, Prop 5 would cause significant tax losses at both the state and local level. During the next few years, schools and local governments would lose over \$100 million per year. Over time, this amount would grow to about \$1 billion per year. Less money would go to schools and fire departments. The state would need to spend more money on these services. Increased state spending would be between \$100 million and \$1 billion per year.

### YES People for Prop 5 say:

- Prop 5 will help seniors and people with severe disabilities to move without having to pay higher taxes.
- When seniors move, more homes will be available for families with children.

### NO People against Prop 5 say:

- Less money would go to schools and public services, like fire departments.
- Prop 5 would help wealthy seniors. It would do nothing to bring down the cost of rent or address homelessness.

## 6 Transportation Taxes and Fees

Initiative - Constitutional Amendment

**The way it is now:** In 2017, state lawmakers passed a law called SB 1 to raise money for transportation in California. SB 1 increased taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel. It also created new transportation improvement fees that are paid when registering a vehicle. The state expects these taxes and fees to raise \$4.4 billion this year. In 2020, this amount will increase to \$5.1 billion. Money earned from SB 1 helps pay for road and highway repairs, safety improvements, and public transportation.

**What Prop 6 would do if it passes:** Prop 6 would get rid of the taxes and fees passed last year as part of SB 1. The Legislature would need to get voter approval before passing new taxes on gasoline and diesel fuel. Voters would also have to approve before transportation improvement fees and vehicle license fees could be increased.

**Effect on the state budget:** If Prop 6 passes, the state would get much less money from transportation taxes and fees. The state would lose \$2.4 billion this year and \$5.1 billion in 2020. There would be much less money available for highway and road repairs, as well as public transportation. California would also have less money for safety improvements. By requiring voter approval, Prop 6 could make it harder to raise transportation taxes and fees in the future.

### YES People for Prop 6 say:

- Transportation taxes and fees are too high for low-income residents and California's working families.
- Voting yes on Prop 6 would immediately lower the price of gasoline and the cost to register a vehicle.

### NO People against Prop 6 say:

- Transportation taxes and fees are paying for more than 6500 projects throughout the state.
- If we don't have money to pay for important bridge and road repairs, California will be less safe.

7

**Daylight Saving Time**

*Legislative Statute*

**The way it is now:** Federal law sets standard time zones for each area of the country. California and other western states are in the Pacific Standard time zone. Current law requires the time of each zone to move forward by one hour from early March to early November each year during a period called Daylight Saving Time. During this period, sunrises and sunsets happen one hour later. Federal law lets states choose to stay on standard time all year long, but prevents states from having year-round Daylight Saving Time.

**What Prop 7 would do if it passes:** Prop 7 would allow state lawmakers to vote on changing Daylight Saving Time. Lawmakers would be able to choose year-round Daylight Saving Time, if allowed by federal law. Any change would require support from two thirds of California’s Legislature. Until then, Prop 7 would keep California’s current Daylight Saving Time schedule.

**Effect on the state budget:** Prop 7 would have no immediate effects. Impacts on state and local government would likely be very small.

**YES People for Prop 7 say:**

- Always being on Daylight Saving Time would have positive public health effects. When people don’t have to change their clocks, the risk of heart attacks and strokes goes down.
- This change would also reduce energy costs and increase work production.

**NO People against Prop 7 say:**

- If the sun rises an hour later in the winter this will have negative effects on schools, traffic and public safety.
- Having a different time than other western states would create confusion.

8

**Kidney Dialysis Clinics**

*Initiative Statute*

**The way it is now:** If a person’s kidneys stop working, they will need a transplant or special treatment, called dialysis, to survive. Dialysis involves using a machine to filter the blood and return it back to a patient’s body. In California, dialysis is usually provided by licensed dialysis clinics. Dialysis treatment is paid for by Medicare, Medi-Cal and private insurance. Private insurance companies usually pay clinics much more for dialysis treatment than Medicare and Medi-Cal.

**What Prop 8 would do if it passes:** Prop 8 would limit how much dialysis clinics can charge for treatment. Clinics would be allowed to charge for the cost of providing “direct patient care” and “quality improvements,” plus an additional 15 percent. Each year clinics would have to report how much money they made, what they charged patients, and how much they spent on providing dialysis services. If clinics charge more than they are allowed, they would need to pay money back, mostly to patients’ insurance companies. Prop 8 would also prevent clinics from treating patients differently based on the type of insurance they have.

**Effect on the state budget:** Budget effects would depend on how dialysis clinics react to the law. Effects would also depend on how courts and the state Department of Public Health interpret the law. State and local governments could save or lose tens of millions of dollars each year.

**YES People for Prop 8 say:**

- Prop 8 will stop dialysis companies from overcharging patients.
- This measure will lower healthcare costs for all Californians.

**NO People against Prop 8 say:**

- California’s dialysis clinics provide some of the highest quality care in the country.
- Prop 8 will force community dialysis clinics to cut services and close.

9

Prop 9 was removed from the ballot due to a court decision.

10

## Local Governments and Rent Control

*Initiative Statute*

**The way it is now:** Several California cities have "rent control" laws that limit how much landlords can increase rents each year. State law prevents rent control on single-family homes and housing built after Feb. 1, 1995. It also prevents local governments from telling landlords what they can charge when a renter first moves in. Courts have said that landlords must be allowed to increase rents enough to be able to make some money each year.

**What Prop 10 would do if it passes:** Prop 10 would change state law and allow local governments to make their own choices about rent control. Cities and counties would have more power to limit how much landlords can increase rents each year. Rent control rules could apply to any type of housing, no matter when the housing was built. This would include all types of apartments and single-family homes. Rules could also make it harder for a landlord to increase rents when a new renter moves in. Local rent control laws would still need to allow landlords to make some money each year.

**Effect on the state budget:** Prop 10 has no immediate effects on state or local budgets. Effects would depend on how many cities and counties pass rent control laws and how landlords would respond. Overall, the measure would likely decrease money made from state and local taxes. Governments could see decreases in the tens to hundreds of millions of dollars each year. Cities or counties that pass rent control laws will also need to spend money to enforce them. These costs will likely be paid by fees on landlords.

### People for

#### **YES** Prop 10 say:

- The high cost of rent is hurting seniors, families and low-income residents.
- Prop 10 will allow local communities to choose whether they want rent control.

### People against

#### **No** Prop 10 say:

- Rent control will lead landlords to sell their property or stop renting. This will make rents even more expensive.
- Governments should not be able to tell single-family homeowners how much they can charge for rent.



**CA STATE LWV PROS AND CONS ON THE BALLOT MEASURES ONLINE NOW!**

View LWVC [Pros & Cons on the ballot measures](#) to help you prepare to vote in the November 6 Election:

<https://cavotes.org/vote/elections/ballot-measures>

## 11

**Ambulance Employee Breaks***Initiative Statute*

**The way it is now:** Many cities and counties depend on private companies to provide ambulance services. Ambulance employees are usually required to stay “on-call” during meal and rest breaks, meaning they must respond to emergency calls even while on a break. In 2016, the state Supreme Court ruled that similar kinds of workers must be given “off-duty” breaks which cannot be interrupted, even in the case of an emergency. Some ambulance employees have sued their companies claiming that they should be able to remain off-duty during breaks. Some of these lawsuits also seek extra pay for time employees were required to work during breaks.

**What Prop 11 would do if it passes:** If Prop 11 passes, private ambulance employees must remain on-call during their entire shift. Ambulance employees would be required to respond to emergency calls during meal and rest breaks. If an employee’s break is interrupted, their employer will be required to provide another break during their shift. All breaks would be paid at an employee’s regular rate. Ambulance companies would also be required to provide additional paid training and mental health services to ambulance employees. Prop 11 could also protect ambulance companies from having to pay employees who were prevented from taking off-duty breaks in the past. This measure would not apply to public ambulance employees, who typically work for local fire departments.

**Effect on the state budget:** Overall, Prop 11 would lower costs for private ambulance companies. Cities and counties that depend on private ambulance services would also save money, possibly in the tens of millions of dollars each year.

**YES People for Prop 11 say:**

- Prop 11 protects public safety and makes sure that private ambulance companies can quickly respond to emergencies.
- Ambulance employees deserve more training and mental health supports.

**NO People against Prop 11 say:**

- No argument against Prop 11 was submitted.

## 12

**Farm Animal Cages***Initiative Statute*

**The way it is now:** Under current law, pregnant pigs, egg-laying hens and veal cows must be kept in certain cages and crates. These cages and crates must allow the animal to lie down, stand up, turn around and fully extend their legs. It is also against the law to sell eggs from hens kept in cages that do not meet these rules.

**What Prop 12 would do if it passes:** Proposition 12 would create specific rules about the size of cages and crates for pregnant pigs, egg-laying hens and veal cows. It would be illegal to sell meat or eggs from animals kept in cages that do not meet these rules. In 2022, farmers would also be required to keep egg-laying hens in cage-free housing. The California Department of Food and Agriculture would enforce these rules.

**Effect on the state budget:** It could cost the state up to \$10 million each year to enforce the new rules. The state could receive less money in taxes if farmers choose to raise fewer animals. Because farmers may need to build new cages or crates, Prop 12 is also likely to increase the cost of pork, veal and eggs.

**YES People for Prop 12 say:**

- It is cruel and unsafe to keep animals in small cages.
- Increasing cage sizes will reduce the risks of food poisoning and farm pollution.

**NO People against Prop 12 say:**

- This measure does not go far enough to protect farm animals.
- Prop 12’s cage-size rules would not be big enough for all types of egg-laying hens.

# *Wildfire Protection, Safe Parks/Trails, Public Access, Natural Habitat*

## **THE QUESTION**

Without increasing tax rates, to protect against wildfires; enhance public safety; preserve water quality, shorelines, urban creeks; protect redwoods and parklands in a changing climate; and restore natural areas, shall East Bay Regional Park District be authorized to extend an existing parcel tax of \$1 monthly (\$12/year) per single-family parcel and 69 cents monthly (\$8.28/year) for multi-family units, raising approximately \$3.3 million annually, to expire in 20 years.

## **SUPPORTERS SAY**

The threat of wildfires is real and potentially devastating to living trees, including precious redwood trees, wildlife residential areas, and generations of parkgoers. East Bay Regional Park District has led the way taking steps to prevent the risk of wildfires in our parks. Measure FF will continue that effort and extend critically needed park protections while keeping the current tax rate flat.

Without Measure FF, we risk cutbacks to the protections currently maintaining and safeguarding our parks. Measure FF will increase public safety across all parks, preserve water quality, protect natural habitats, improve public access to parks and trails, maintain and increase environmental education programs and upgrade erosion and control and nature-based flood protection.

Measure FF has carefully monitored, built-in taxpayer safeguards. All FF funds stay local, dedicated our local East Bay Regional Parks. Because of the prudent steps take to protect taxpayers, the Alameda County Taxpayers Association has endorsed Measure FF.

## **OPPONENTS SAY**

\* Opponents believe that the fire control methods within Measure FF to control invasive species are nothing but an attempt to clear cutting trees and they believe that some invasive species are more drought resistant than native species and thus the elimination of invasive species is

misguided. They believe that construction near parks should be built with ignition-resistant materials rather than by tree removal.

\* Some believe that those who support removing these trees are misleading the community with false promises that cleared areas will be replanted with different vegetation, but they say that there are no such plans.

\* Opponents to Measure FF say it includes the destruction of trees by chemical applications for “native plant restoration” and misguided fire hazard mitigation policies that actually cause greater fire danger.

\* The use of pesticides to solve ecological imbalance is shortsighted. Pesticides harm anyone or anything in its pathway. Herbicides persists in the environment for decades, are endocrine disrupters, carcinogens, neurotoxic, cause chronic illness and ecological harm, including threatening endangered species.



**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

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
October		See Front Page for upcoming candidate forums
		Pro & Con Forums....contact Rene' Besold for complete list
November 6		<b>ELECTION DAY—PLEASE VOTE</b>

Submit articles, calendar events, and suggestions to  
**VOTER TEAM:** [nancyvan2011@gmail.com](mailto:nancyvan2011@gmail.com)

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