



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol.61 #8

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation

Sept 2018

IT'S TIME FOR THE LEAGUE TO REGISTER AND EDUCATE VOTERS

As confusing and disruptive the current political environment has become, it is also a time of opportunity for the League of Women Voters. Our purpose as a nonpartisan political organization is to encourage the informed and active participation of the public in government.

Not only do we educate and advocate, we are asked to help explain new laws and potential impacts of new voting processes on individuals and their right to vote. An unbiased voice is critical in being a source of information and our mission, as a League, is clearly needed.

WE NEED YOUR HELP NOW. Can you spare some time from your busy day to help us with our important mission to educate the public on the importance issues of the day.

PROS AND CON PRESENTATIONS

This is the time of year when our League gets many requests for members to speak on the pros and cons presentations of each of the state propositions on the ballot. We need speakers to respond to community groups, churches, youth and senior groups who invite us to discuss ballot issues. Generally our members work as a pair, which includes a member with previous experience. The purpose of our presentations is not to advocate for a position, but rather present an unbiased pro and con analysis. For those of you who have never participated, speaking to the community can be one of the most rewarding League activities. The League provides State League information on the Pros and Cons of each proposition. Our local League provides comprehensive training on how to give presentations

The, missing ingredient is you. We are looking for members who:

- * Have experience or want experience in giving presentations
- * Have some time to give one, two, or more presentations to a variety of organizations and groups whose members want to be educated on the issues/propositions on the November ballot.
- * Willing to attend one training session.

**Training will be held, Saturday, September 22 from 10am-noon
Location to be determined.**

If willing and interested, contact Suzanne Barba at suzbarba@iCloud.com or call 510-788-2426.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

News Is Important to a Democracy

A free press is the only profession singled out for protection in the First Amendment of the Constitution, and lately it has been under attack with cries of “fake news!” The League of Women Voters has always valued accurate information about our government and candidates and needs to continue to do so in these times.

The League offers Candidate Forums and Educational Forums on relevant topics regularly, to provide a platform for clear and unbiased factual information. We ask our candidates questions that do not reflect a political bias, or favor one party over another, to get at the facts. Our Educational Forums feature speakers with different opinions on the topic, to seek out the facts and to hear both sides of a debate.

The League believes in an informed electorate, and many of our efforts involve providing information, from our monthly [VOTER](#) newsletter, to the [VOTER'S EDGE](#) online forum for candidate information, to the [Bay Area Monitor](#). Of course, our members also read reliable newspapers like the San Francisco Chronicle and watch major television news programs. We are often asked by friends and neighbors our opinions on issues, because League members are known to be informed.

It is up to us to combat this war on mainstream news organizations and accusations of “fake news,” and recommend honest news resources. It is part of the mission on the League to facilitate an informed electorate; this is vitally important now more than ever!

Penny Peck, President
Eden Area League of Women Voters

BOARD BRIEFS—August 2018

Castro Valley Fall Festival—Richard Maurer, our Voter Registration Chair, has arranged for the LWVEA to have a booth at the Castro Valley Fall Festival. The Festival is being held the weekend of September 8th and 9th from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. We could use help staffing the booth and registering voters. Contact Richard at prmaurer3130@att.net or 510-314-3890 to volunteer.

Communication Toolkit—Eleven year-old Castro Valley resident Madison Glock made a presentation to the Board, proposing to partner with the LWVEA on a Girl Scout Silver Award project. For her project, Madison will create a communication “toolkit” to help local youth communicate with their elected representatives. She will launch a website and social media campaign, and hopes to debut her project at the League’s booth at the Castro Valley Fall Festival.

Candidate Forums—Voter Services Chair Janice Friesen has scheduled several local candidate forums:

- **September 12, 5:30 p.m.** at San Leandro Main Library—San Leandro Mayor and City Council Districts 1, 3 and 5; San Leandro School Board
- **October 7, 1:00 p.m.** at San Lorenzo Library—San Lorenzo School Board
- **October 14, 12:00 noon** at Castro Valley Library—Castro Valley School Board; Castro Valley Sanitary District Board

Dates and venues for the candidate forums for Hayward Mayor and City Council, Hayward School Board, and Eden Healthcare District, will be finalized soon.

Upcoming Voter Registration Events—Richard has scheduled several voter registration events at various venues in the Eden Area. See page 4

Pros and Cons Presentation Coordinator—The Board is looking for a volunteer to manage the requests for, and scheduling of, Pros and Cons presentations. Longtime League member Suzanne Barba has moved out of the Eden Area and can no longer manage the scheduling of Pros and Cons presentations, but offered to provide Pros and Cons training. Several Board members volunteered to take the training.

Observer Corps Revival—Board Director Alice Sarafian gave a report on the Observer Corps. Members of the Observer Corps attend meetings of local legislative bodies, observing and reporting on their activities. The Board is interested in reviving Observer Corps participation in the coming months.

NEW MEMBER!

Lenora Roland Taylor

I have been an attorney for over 25 years with a specialty in Tax Defense. I represent businesses and individuals resolve their tax problems with the IRS and State. Although originally from Detroit, MI, I have lived in Hayward since 1997. Now that my youngest son has gone off to college, instead of just complaining about the political climate, I have been looking to get more involved. I am very interested in getting more people involved in the political process by registering to vote and actually voting. This, being one of the missions of LWV, is why I joined the organization. I was recently appointed to the Keep Hayward Clean and Green Task Force and am currently serving as Treasurer for a political candidate. I am excited about the opportunity to work with you all.



Membership Report

We have three new members: Lenora Roland Taylor, Wendy and Pete Peterson. We welcome them and encourage all new members to be involved in one or more of our upcoming activities: Candidate forums, Voter registration and Pro & Con presentations.

The Membership Team held a New Member Social on Tuesday, August 14th. We had a good turnout and a nice mix of new members and Board members. In addition to learning about our new members, we reviewed the League mission, purpose, structure and priorities. A big thank you to everyone who participated.

Carolyn Darcey,
Membership Chair

BAY AREA MONITOR

We are reaching out as part of an effort to communicate to local Members that: 1) the Monitor has a new website at bayareamonitor.org, and 2) we're going to start sending our email subscribers weekly bulletins that have Monitor article updates, regional policy news, and announcements from local Leagues regarding events or activities that relate to our coverage area of transportation, air, water, open space, housing, and land use.

In publicizing these new Monitor developments, we want to make sure that our members know they can sign up to receive our emails at bayareamonitor.org/subscribe

We feel that the Monitor is continuing to improve as a resource for local League members and the region as a whole, and we want to make sure people are aware of what we're doing.



CANDIDATE FORUMS

There are many important jobs at a candidate forum to ensure its success in providing the public with an opportunity to see and hear the various local candidates seeking public office. The jobs include: timekeeper, question picker-upper, question sorter, and greeter. If you can help us with these important but simple tasks, please contact Janice Friesen, League member in charge of candidate forums at jfriesen5490@yahoo.com.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION

Here is your chance to make a difference for the next General Election, Nov 6. Below is the updated schedule for voter registration events in Sept and Oct.

We need your help. Pick an event (or two) and let Richard know. If you don't hear back from me right away, please text me at 510-314-3890 or call 510-826-6674. We have revised the Voter Registration Schedule for September and October as shown below.

We still need several volunteers to sign up for these events to register voters and encourage citizens to vote this November, and to recruit new LWVEA members. It's easy, and Richard will attend all events to provide on-the-job training.

If you can, please pick more than one location or more than one date from the list below, then notify Richard Maurer by email prmaurer3130@att.net, or text **510-314-3890** to get all the details:

San Leandro BART	Wed 4 to 6 pm	October 3
Bayfair BART	Wed 4 to 6 pm	September 5 and October 17
Castro Valley BART	Wed 4 to 6 pm	October 11
Hayward BART	Wed 4 to 6 pm	October 10
Hayward Farmers Market	Sat 10 to 1 pm	September 1 and October 13
Castro Valley Farmers Market	Sat 10 to 1 pm	September 29 and October 20
Bayfair Farmers Market	Sat 10 to 1 pm	October 6
Cal State East Bay	Tues 10 to 2 pm	October 16
Chabot College	Tues 10 to 2 pm	Aug 29, Sept 28 and October 22
Las Positas College	Tues 10 to 2 pm	September 27 and October 18

In addition, the LWVEA will have a booth this year at the **2018 Castro Valley Fall Festival** on **September 8 and 9**. The hours of this event are 10 am to 6 pm so we will need several volunteers. Please suggest a 2 hr shift and let Richard know.





Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy.

Ninety-eight years ago on August 26, women finally won the right to vote with the adoption of the 19th Amendment—opening the democratic process to more than 23 million women.

[Women's Equality Day](#) was created on this anniversary to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality and recognize the sacrifices made by the suffragists.

But even after the 19th Amendment was passed and became law, women of color and poor women continued to face barriers at the polls.

Even in this century, we have seen more and more voter suppression nationwide since the Supreme Court rolled back portions of the Voting Rights Act in 2013.

Today, Congress has the power to restore the effectiveness of this important Act and uphold our democracy. Join us in this fight [by telling your members of Congress to work quickly to repair and restore the VRA](#) to ensure our elections are free, fair, and accessible.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY IS ALL ABOUT
CELEBRATING WHAT WE ALL, AS AMERICANS,
CAN DO TO BUILD A BETTER DEMOCRACY:

VOTE.

This Women's Equality Day gives us an opportunity to reflect on the progress made on voting rights in the last 98 years and emphasizes the continued need to improve our election process. [Today we are reminded of how far we have come and how far we still must travel for true equality. Commemorate this Women's Equality Day by helping us ensure that every voter has equal access at the polls.](#)

Thank you for all you do to celebrate equality—today and every day.

Virginia Kase, CEO, League of Women Voters of the United States



PROP 1 Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond YES

California is experiencing a housing crisis. The state's extreme shortage of affordable housing has life and death consequences, especially for people with low incomes. Housing instability has been linked to public health crises, food insecurity, and developmental problems in children. Prop 1 will build and preserve affordable homes, including supportive housing, for veterans, working families, people with disabilities, Californians experiencing homelessness and others struggling to find a safe place to call home. It will authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds, to be used to support these affordable housing programs. It would also leverage federal dollars for construction of new housing.

Vote YES on Prop 1.

PROP 2 Homeless Housing Bond YES

A quarter of the nation's homeless reside in California--over 130,000 people. A significant percentage of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop 2 allows the use of unspent money, originally allocated through a 2004 measure to fund mental health services, to be used to address the problem. If passed, the unspent money would be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health services, and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

Vote YES on Prop 2.

PROP 3 Water Bond NO

It is essential that California manage and develop water resources in ways that benefit the environment, and that the environmental focus emphasizes both conservation and use-appropriate high water quality standards. However, this bond is *not* the way to accomplish those goals. While the League of Women Voters of California supports the use of long-term debt (bond measures) to finance capital projects, this measure has a number of fatal flaws, including:

- Shifting the cost for water from the end users to California taxpayers;
- Reducing state money available for other critical state programs like education, affordable housing, and healthcare;
- Failing to provide for adequate project oversight and financial accountability.

Vote NO on Prop 3.

PROP 4 Children's Hospital Bond NO

While the League of Women Voters of California supports quality healthcare for all Californians, Prop 4 would use \$1.5 billion in public, general obligation bond money to support privately-owned children's hospitals, along with five children's hospitals in the University of California system. State funds should not be used to support private facilities. This principle stands even when, as is the case in this measure, the facilities serve severely ill children. The bond money would be used for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment projects. These are capital improvements that could be funded either through revenues the private hospitals generate or through capital campaigns (where, for example, a building is named after a donor).

Vote NO on Prop 4.

PROP 5 Property Tax NO

Property taxes are the major source of funding for schools and local services. Prop 5 is a costly constitutional amendment that would reduce funds for schools and local services by \$1 billion per year. In exchange for that \$1 billion a year, Prop 5 would provide special tax benefits to some property owners. It does nothing to help low-income seniors, or families struggling to find housing. Seniors already have the ability to keep their tax break when they downsize. Prop 5 drains California's coffers of money that is essential to schools and communities.

Vote NO on Prop 5.

PROP 6 Gas Tax Repeal

NO

California is in critical need of highway and local street repairs and maintenance, and improvements to mass transit and transportation. Prop 6 would repeal the recently-enacted 2017 package of taxes and fees approved by the State Legislature to fund transportation projects, amounting to a loss of \$4.7 billion in annual funding. The measure would also add a constitutional amendment requiring any fuel or diesel taxes to be approved by voters, limiting the legislature's ability to address California's serious infrastructure needs. Passage of this repeal measure would have significant negative impacts and leave our state structures vulnerable, especially during natural disasters.

Vote NO on Prop 6.

PROP 10 Repeal Costa Hawkins

YES

Multiple strategies are needed to address the significant housing shortages and inequities that exist across California. While this rent control measure offers little systemic progress, and may not result in adding new affordable housing units, it does allow local communities to respond to the housing crisis in ways that are appropriate for each of them. We support providing local communities with this control.

Vote YES on Prop 10.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking **no stand** on **Prop 7** (Daylight Savings Time), **Prop 8** (Dialysis), **Prop 11** (Ambulance Drivers), and **Prop 12** (Farm Animals).

Prop 9 was removed from the ballot.

Ballot Measures

LWVC only takes positions on ballot measures based on current program [positions](#) and/or on [League principles](#). Positions are developed based on member [study and consensus](#). We have many positions, and many opportunities to act, so how does our board determine when to take action on statewide ballot measures, and on which items?

Endorsement Strategy

Because the League's resources are limited, we try to be strategic about how we endorse measures. We want to make sure:

- that it is something that we really can endorse (that it isn't still in a nebulous state)
- that it isn't going to change in some way that will make us have to either withdraw our support or otherwise backpedal

If there is going to be some kind of campaign, we also want to be given a strong voice in the campaign messaging. We are involved in some campaigns from the very beginning (redistricting, clean money), but frequently wait to see whether a measure qualifies for the ballot before endorsing.

Some of the other factors that we consider when looking at a ballot measure include:

- the reality of its passage (is it really worth putting our energy into this?)
- who else is working on it (can we realistically be in a coalition with these organizations?)
- overall campaign strategy (is there a total plan, and can the League take an effective role?)
- whether we want to make a statement of principle on an issue

League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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LEAGUE PHONE#: 510.826.6674

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.

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CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Wed, Sept 12	5:30pm	San Leandro Candidate Forum , Mayor, City Council and School Board San Leandro Library
Sat, Sept 22	10am-noon	Training for Pro & Con Presentations. We invite all members to participate in this very important League activity—see page 1
Mon, Sept 24	5:30-7:30pm	LWVEA Monthly Board Meeting—Manor Library, San Leandro

Submit articles, calendar events, and suggestions to

VOTER TEAM: nancyvan2011@gmail.com

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

www.lwvea.org