



# League of Women Voters Benicia

## VOTER

January 2019

<http://www.lwvbenicia.org>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties. We encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and action.



February 4<sup>th</sup>, Mon. 7:00 PM **Great Decisions, second meeting.** Benicia Public Library, Topic: The Middle East: Regional Disorder

February 9<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 9:30 AM – 3:00 PM **LWV Bay Area League Day,** Google Community Space, 188 The Embarcadero, San Francisco. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion in the Bay Area.

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, Friday, 5:30—7:30 PM **Meet Your Local Officials,** Estey offices, 216 First Street, Benicia

February 25<sup>th</sup>, Mon. 7:00 PM **Great Decisions, third meeting.** Benicia Public Library, Topic: Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future

March 4<sup>th</sup>, Mon. 7:00 PM **Great Decisions, fourth meeting.** Benicia Public Library, Topic: The Rise of Populism in Europe

March 11<sup>th</sup>, Mon. 7:00 PM **Great Decisions, fifth meeting.** Benicia Public Library, Topic: Decoding U.S. – China Trade

March 12<sup>th</sup>, Tues. 7:00 PM **LWV Benicia Board Meeting** at Niles Medders' home at 200 Brighton Drive Vallejo

March 18<sup>th</sup>, Mon. 7:00 PM **Great Decisions, sixth meeting.** Benicia Public Library, Topic: Cyber conflict and Geopolitics



The **Great Decisions** foreign policy discussions sessions will continue on Monday nights at Benicia Public Library, our cosponsor for this informative series. Meetings will be held on consecutive Monday nights with the exception of February 11th and February 18th when the library is closed for the Presidents' Holidays. If you ordered a book or would like to inquire about availability of books please contact Judy Potter at [judy.potter@gmail.com](mailto:judy.potter@gmail.com) to arrange pickup. The library has three copies of

the book which will be available in the reference section of the library. If you don't have a book or don't have time to read the chapter but are interested in the topics we are discussing you are welcome to come and view the videos produced by the Foreign Policy Association and join in the discussion.

## Voter Service Report

by Gayle Vaughan



Since the November election the Voter Service team has been rather quiet. Things are beginning to pick up now, though. Voter Service team members will be meeting in Suisun on Feb.7 (location TBD) to begin planning for spring high school voter registration for North County. We have new members and volunteers who are anxious to register youth voters in Fairfield, Vacaville, and Dixon. South county high school registration will probably not take on full steam until fall of 2019. We registered 1200 high school seniors between April and November, 2018 and they would be the same students in senior classes in spring of 2019.

More locally, Benicia Mayor Patterson and City Council have invited members of our League to take a seat with an ad hoc committee to address the very necessary issue of campaign finance reform which began the end of January. It's a great opportunity for our local League to affect real change in our election process. The League Board will be discussing the request at their March meeting and decide if it's something we have a process and resources to do. In the meantime, the Open Government Commission will continue with their formation of an ad hoc committee to consider recommendations from the council, position statements of the state League, and ideas from Valero, as well as other community groups. For more information about our election problems, check out KQED's recent article on our city election. There's more to the story, but it's a good start.

[//www.kqed.org/.../valero-backed-candidates-win-benicia-city-council-election](http://www.kqed.org/.../valero-backed-candidates-win-benicia-city-council-election).

Things are busting out all over! The Solano County Board of Supervisors will be redistricting the supervisorial districts for the 2020 election. There is a movement with Common Cause, sponsored by our Supervisor, Monica Brown, to create an independent redistricting committee for Solano County instead of relying on the Supervisors to create their own districts. The League of Women Voters Benicia has been invited to participate in the process. Beginning meetings took place in January, but the LWVB board will meet in March to discuss our possible involvement with this process.



**Meet Your Local Officials** (affectionately known as “MYLO”) is an annual League of Women Voters Benicia event. Benicia and Solano County elected officials and staff are invited, as well as the public. We hope this is a fun and yet serious event, giving everyone the chance to informally talk to local officials.

This year’s 14<sup>th</sup> annual event will take place on **Friday, February 22, from 5:30 to 7:30pm**. We are lucky to be having the event this year at the Estey offices, 216 First Street, and request that everyone come in via the front door to be greeted.

People usually drop by, have a drink and a nibble, and mingle so don’t feel you are expected to stay for the entire two hours. MYLO fosters and encourages this easy, informative and active participation in government and all are welcome to attend the 2019 event. For questions or to volunteer to help please contact Susan Cohen Grossman, 707-319-1053, [susancg13@gmail.com](mailto:susancg13@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!



*Diversity Film Series Winter 2019*

*One Woman's Fight for Justice*

Blackfoot warrior and tribal Treasurer Elouise Cobell started asking questions about missing money from government-managed Indian Trust accounts, and ended up filing the largest class action lawsuit ever filed against the U.S. Government.

Piedmont: 1/24/19, 7pm  
Oakland: 1/27/19, 12:30pm

**100 YEARS**

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**THE PUSHOUTS**

The way we label people determines how we treat them, says Victor Rios, former West-Oakland gang member-turned professor. He’s mentoring students of color who get “pushed out” of high school, to help them stay in.

Piedmont: 3/21/19, 7pm  
Oakland: 3/24/19, 12:30pm

*over for more...*

## Appreciating Diversity Film Series: 100 Years, One Woman's Fight for Justice

Appreciating Diversity Film Series opens its 2019 documentary film series in Piedmont and Oakland with free showings of the inspiring story of Blackfeet Treasurer Eloise Cobell’s 30-Year Fight for Justice. Read more about the film series **more information**

Appreciating Diversity Film Series film screenings are always free. Audience discussion following each screening. For more information: [julie@diversityfilmseries.org](mailto:julie@diversityfilmseries.org).

**Ellen Driscoll Theater**, 325 Highland Ave,  
Piedmont California 94611



Virginia Kase  
CEO, LWV US

**February 9, 2019**

Google Community Space

188 Steuart

San Francisco, CA

\$45 w/Lunch | \$30 w/o Lunch

more information: [lwvba.org](http://lwvba.org)

visit the website for scholarship information

## Bay Area League Day 2019

### Diversity Equity & Inclusion (DEI) in the Bay Area

#### DEI in Action-DEI in Practice?

- Why Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is Right for the League of Women Voters
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and What It Means to CA
- System Change: Personal & Organizational
- Allies and Opportunities

Tickets: [tinyurl.com/LeagueDay2019](http://tinyurl.com/LeagueDay2019)

We are pleased to announce League of Women Voters of the United States, Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Kase will be the League Day key address speaker at League Day 2019. She comes from Washington D.C. to speak to us about Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (D.E.&I.) in our local Leagues and local organization. LWVUS is fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice.

Join thought leaders from around the Bay Area to learn more about Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, what it means to the Bay Area, and opportunities to work with allies. Learn how regional agencies, corporate identities, and nonprofits have changed their framework to strengthen their workforce with a diverse population.

The event will be held at the **Google Community Space, 188 Embarcadero with the entrance at 188 Steuart, San Francisco** just a short walk from the San Francisco Ferry Building, Bus and BART station. Parking across the street along the waterfront.

Those interested in a scholarships write to: [mkronen@aol.com](mailto:mkronen@aol.com)

## Current Board

Judy Potter: Treasurer, Exec. Committee

Nile Medders: Member-at-Large, Exec. Committee

Alice Labay: Reporting Secretary

Malin Coleridge: Member-at-Large, Webmaster

Sandy Coury: Member-at- Large, Membership

Susan Cohen Grossman: Member-at-Large, Programs



## Newsletter

Susan Street, Leslie Lessenger and Niles Medders

Newsletter submissions:  
due by 20th of the month  
Susan Street, [susanstreet240@gmail.com](mailto:susanstreet240@gmail.com)

League business only  
What where, when why in first paragraph  
200 words or less  
Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt is preferred.  
No colored backgrounds or fancy font

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