

# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA

An Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area



## CONVENTION 2020 KIT

SATURDAY, June 6, 2020  
10:00 am - 12:00 pm Meeting

Digital Meeting

Join Online with Zoom:  
**Meeting ID: 609 606 7250**

or

Phone in by Dialing:  
+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)  
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

Please register at:  
<http://lwvbayarea.org/>

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA 2020 CONVENTION

Saturday, June 6, 2020

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Materials in this kit are intended to facilitate the business of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Biennial Convention on Saturday, June 6, 2020.

Voting members of the Convention include Bay Area League Board members, Presidents and delegates chosen to represent the Local Leagues of the Bay Area. The number of delegates for each League is determined by the membership numbers transmitted from LWVUS and Article 10 of our bylaws; numbers are on page 5.

For an expeditious registration, we need you to e-mail the names of delegates and any attendees and to bring these Convention materials. Materials were also sent by e-mail for your distribution to delegates.

**WE NEED EACH LEAGUE REPRESENTED!**

League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

Convention 2020

Proposed Order of Business

- 10:00 - Call to Order Introductions and Board Report  
Credentials Report  
Appointment of Committees  
Review Convention Minutes  
Elections  
Parliamentary Advice  
ZOOM INFO – how to vote
  
- 10:10 - Adoption of Convention Rules (VOTE)  
Adoption of Order of Business (VOTE)
  
- 10:20 - Treasurer's Report  
Presentation of proposed budget  
Budget Debate and Adoption (VOTE)  
  
Bay Area Monitor Update
  
- 10:40 - Proposed Amendments to Bylaws (VOTE)
  
- 11:00 - Program Discussion -  
Program Debate and Adoption (VOTE)  
  
Board Recommendation: Housing & Homelessness  
  
All Bay Area League Positions are attached
  
- 11:20 - Nominating Committee Report – Bonnie Hamlin (VOTE)  
Election of Officers, Directors and Nominating Committee
  
- 11:30 - President's Remarks –
  
- 11:35 - Adjournment

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## PROPOSED RULES

### LWVBA CONVENTION 2020

1. Delegates shall be voting members chosen by their Local Leagues. Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote.
2. Main Motions and substantive amendments shall be put in writing and emailed to [lww.madeline.kronenberg@gmail.com](mailto:lww.madeline.kronenberg@gmail.com) at least 24 hours before the start of the Convention and shall contain the name and League of mover. One copy shall be sent to the chair.
3. Debate and Discussion. Speakers shall first state clearly their name and League. Debate shall be limited to two minutes for each speaker unless time is extended by a 2/3 (two-thirds) vote of the convention. No person may speak more than once until all who wish to speak have done so.
4. ADOPTION OF PROGRAM
  - a. Recommended program shall be moved for adoption by members of the LWVBA Board.
  - b. Non-recommended items may be moved for consideration after the recommended program is presented. A delegate so moving may make a statement no longer than three minutes explaining the reason for consideration. Any non-recommended item moved for consideration must have been submitted to the LWVBA Board by its March 7 deadline. The motion shall not be debatable. If a non-recommended item is moved for consideration by the delegates, the LWVBA Board shall explain its reasons for not recommending it before the vote is taken. Such a statement shall be limited to three minutes. The vote to consider shall be taken immediately. Items receiving a majority vote are automatically before the Convention for adoption without any further motion.
  - c. Non-recommended items (in the order in which they were voted consideration) and the recommended program will be taken up at one time for debate, possible amendment, and the vote to adopt at time given in the agenda.
  - d. Vote requirement: A 3/5 (three-fifths) vote is required to pass non-recommended items. A majority vote is required to pass recommended program.
5. Nominations for officers, directors and the Nominating Committee shall be put in writing and be emailed to [lww.madeline.kronenberg@gmail.com](mailto:lww.madeline.kronenberg@gmail.com) at least 24 hours before the start of the Convention, provided the consent of the nominee shall have been secured in advance.
6. Privilege of the Floor shall be given to National and State Board members, past LWVBA Presidents, LWVBA Board nominees, as well as representatives of those committees reporting to the Convention.

**LOCAL LEAGUE AUTHORIZATION FOR DELEGATES TO THE 2020 CONVENTION  
OF THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA**

<b>League: League Name</b>	<b>Total Membership Count</b>	<b>Member Delegates per Bylaws</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Total Delegates</b>
LWV of Alameda	89	2	1	3
LWV of Berkeley Albany Emeryville	144	2	1	3
LWV of Cupertino-Sunnyvale	120	2	1	3
LWV of Diablo Valley	214	3	1	4
LWV of Eden Area	120	2	1	3
LWV of Fremont/Newark/Union	110	2	1	3
LWV of Los Altos-Mt. View Area	197	3	1	4
LWV of Marin County	189	3	1	4
LWV of Napa County	57	1	1	2
LWV of North & Central San Mateo County	147	2	1	3
LWV of Oakland	341	5	1	6
LWV of Palo Alto	315	5	1	6
LWV of Piedmont	128	3	1	4
LWV of San Francisco	105	2	1	3
LWV of San Jose/Santa Clara	145	2	1	3
LWV of Solano County	86	2	1	3
LWV of Sonoma County	153	3	1	4
LWV of South San Mateo	169	2	1	3
LWV of SW Santa Clara Valley	121	2	1	3
LWV of West Contra Costa County	64	1	1	2
LWV Bay Area Board				7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3014</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>77</b>

Membership figures for delegates include LWVUS, STUDENT and HONORARY MEMBERS

LWVBA Board members are also delegates

**LWVBA Proposed 2020-22Budget**

**ATTACHED AS SEPARATE DOCUMENT**

Monitor Update – from our Editor – Alec MacDonald

In 1975, the year it launched, the Bay Area Monitor was produced on a mimeograph machine. In case you're wondering, a mimeograph is basically a high-volume stencil, a way to reproduce printed pages by pushing ink onto paper through letter-shaped holes. These days, you're more likely to find one in a museum than in an office.

The members of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area who mimeographed the Monitor into life couldn't have predicted how the publication would change over the long haul. They probably didn't expect it to last 45 years. If they did, they would have had trouble imagining the technology used to publish it today — or the world it now covers.

In its infancy, the Monitor focused on specific government plans, and continued to have a narrow planning focus in the ensuing decades. As the Monitor editor for the past 13 years, I've opened things up in hopes of reaching a more general audience. In part, this has meant taking advantage of emerging publishing advancements and technologies — namely, more affordable full-color printing and internet-powered digital tools. But more significantly, I've sought to bring a broader perspective to the field of regional government. How? I've tried to infuse the Monitor with an inviting narrative style while minimizing jargon, acronyms, and other forms of planner-speak. I've looked for opportunities to make human beings (not documents) the characters in our stories. I've pushed for analysis of trends, showing how projects contribute to societal shifts, instead of simply touting individual successes. Overall, I've attempted to apply the techniques of longform journalism toward the ultimate goal of improving community quality of life.

Why? I believe that this approach supports the League's mission: to encourage informed and active participation in government. I've been optimistic that our coverage could help fuel a dynamic and productive conversation, one that helps many different stakeholders influence policy development. As it turns out, democracy can be a rather specialized industry, at least in places like public works departments or government board rooms. Getting the general public to engage with — or just pay attention to — government planning is no easy task, no matter how you write about it. The Monitor's reach hasn't expanded much outside of its niche — and now it may be nearing the end of its run.

Regardless of changes in focus and format, the publication's dire future is easily attributable to external circumstances. The financial crisis of 2007 resulted in a significant and permanent decrease in our budget, which comes almost entirely from agencies and individual donations (and not from League membership dues, to clear up that misconception). After operating in this weakened state for more than a decade, we are in no shape to weather the massive financial turmoil wrought by the coronavirus pandemic, and so the Monitor now faces the sobering reality that we are unlikely to make it to the election this November.

That is, at least not in our current print form. As League leaders conduct fundraising outreach in the months ahead to determine if the Monitor can still be published as a magazine in the coming fiscal year, we will continue sending out our weekly Monitor Notes email newsletter every Wednesday. It's your best way to stay connected with the issues we cover during this uncertain time, so if you're not already receiving it, please email me at [editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org) and I'll sign you up.

The League needs input to figure out what steps should be next for the Monitor. To borrow the language of policy development, consider the following weeks to be your public comment period. In the meantime, enjoy this current themed edition, in which our reporters explore what the Bay Area might look like after another 45 years. And you never know — maybe in 2065, some future editor will be musing about how her iteration of the Monitor compares to that quaint version from back in 2020. We can only hope.

**LWVBA Bylaws**  
**Proposed Amendments**

Article X.

Section 10. Emergency Use of Conference Telephone or Electronic Meeting for Convention. If necessitated by an emergency that prevents physical participation in Convention by a majority of the delegates and the LWV Bay Area board, the board may notify all Local Leagues that the Convention will be held remotely by use of conference telephone, online electronic meeting platform or other suitable mechanism. Suitable mechanisms must ensure that all delegates are able to hear each other, view Convention materials while participating, and register their votes in a manner that can be recorded accurately for the minutes. Notice of a remote Convention must be provided to all Local Leagues at least 10 days prior to the meeting, containing complete access information together with copies of all materials related to business to come before the Convention, including the nominating committee slate, proposed program, proposed budget, and any bylaws changes.

Article XI.

Section 5. Emergency Use of Conference Telephone or Electronic Meeting for Council. If necessitated by an emergency that prevents physical participation in Council by a majority of the delegates and the LWV Bay Area board, the board may notify all Local Leagues that the Council will be held remotely by use of conference telephone, online electronic meeting platform or other suitable mechanism. Suitable mechanisms must ensure that all delegates are able to hear each other, view Council materials while participating, and register their votes in a manner that can be recorded accurately for the minutes. Notice of a remote Council must be provided to all Local Leagues at least 10 days prior to the meeting, containing complete access information together with copies of all materials related to business to come before the Council, including any proposed program changes or other decisions.



## **PROGRAM PLANNING**

Following the guidance from the majority of responding Local Leagues, the Board recommends the following program:

### **Housing and Homelessness**

Non-recommended programs – each receiving support from one Local League – are as follows:

Review of Regional Airports - Cooperation re Civil Defense  
Update to Regional Governance Position  
Health Care  
Land Use Policy

In addition, the Board recommends that we form the following four working groups with a “Coordinating Committee” which will oversee their work:

Regional Planning/Regional Governance/Land Use  
Housing and Homelessness (focused on tracking housing bills)  
Climate Change/Natural Resources  
Transportation (including a Reid-Hillview working group)

# POSITIONS

## REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (updated 5/2000)

Support legislative action to establish a multi-purpose regional planning agency for the nine Bay Area counties with directly elected representatives from newly established districts

Support, in the interim, state or local government action to consolidate existing regional agencies

Support measures to make regional decision making bodies representative of the population distribution and region-wide governmental, environmental, social equity, and economic interests

1. Recognition that many regional functions require cooperation between the level of government closest to the people and regional governing bodies
2. Concerted effort to maintain local government identity within the regional framework
3. Authority for the designated regional planning agency (currently ABAG) to prepare and implement a long-term, comprehensive regional plan and capital improvements program according to state policies and guidelines, with:
  - a. power of eminent domain
  - b. authority to review local general plans and major development proposals for consistency with the regional plan
  - c. power to allocate or withhold federal and state funds to implement the comprehensive regional plan and capital improvements program
4. Mandatory local general and special district plan compliance with the comprehensive regional plan
5. Reform of the state/local finance system to provide local governments with sufficient and dependable funding, and adequate funding for comprehensive regional planning and implementation

## REGIONAL PLANNING (updated 5/2000)

Support legislation to establish state/regional/local comprehensive planning criteria that promote compact growth, natural resources protection, and social and economic equity

1. Include as planning considerations: environmental quality, transportation, conservation and environmentally sensitive development of the Bay, its shoreline and tributaries, parks, open space, agricultural lands and natural resources, sewage and waste disposal, housing, seismic hazards, employment, social equity, and economic health
2. Limit future growth to the existing urbanized areas in order to prevent urban sprawl, protect environmental resources, maintain open space around urban centers, utilize existing services, provide workforce housing close to jobs, and promote a regional transportation system, through:
  - a. a regional growth framework that coordinates local growth boundaries and includes:
  - b. land use controls outside the boundaries to protect agricultural lands and natural resources,
  - c. requirements inside the boundaries for more job-related housing and transit-oriented development with. consideration of social equity, and natural resource protection, and
  - d. adherence of LAFCOs to the regional growth framework
  - e. regional capital improvements program for allocating federal, state, and local resources for regional facilities, low-to-moderate income housing, and land acquisition to implement the regional plan
3. Create a sense of regional identity

- 4 Maintain local and community identity.

#### **ENVIRONMENT Air - Land Use - Water - Solid Waste (Updated 5/2000)**

Support regional solutions to environmental pollution that provide effective air and water quality control and regional planning for solid waste management

Support measures for conservation and environmentally sensitive development of San Francisco Bay that promote enhancement and preservation of the Bay and its shoreline, tributaries, native vegetative communities and habitats

Support measures that ensure adequate parks and the protection of natural resources, open space, and agricultural land, both outside urban growth boundaries and in urbanized areas

Support natural resources policies to achieve:

- 1 Air and water quality standards that adequately protect people and the environment and effective enforcement of these standards
- 2 Clean air through regulation of motor vehicle emissions
- 3 Sound long-range planning for sewage, industrial and solid waste disposal
- 4 Conservation of the Bay's ecology, including tributaries and riparian and other native plant communities and habitats
- 5 Measures to ensure that public access does not degrade habitats and native plant communities and that economic growth does not adversely impact the environment
- 6 Requirement that the polluter pay for clean-up costs.

#### **NATURAL RESOURCES - CEQA MITIGATION (condensed)**

Support effective legislation, guidelines, and criteria for governmental decision making on mitigation of the negative environmental impacts of a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that take into account whether: 1) the decision to proceed or not is environmentally sound and gives particular attention to cumulative impacts; and 2) the mitigation plan is properly implemented under an acceptable process for meeting legal requirements and public need.

- 1 Strengthen California Environmental Quality Act:
  - a clear process for project determination by the lead agency
  - b early public involvement with emphasis on public hearings
  - c environmental checklists identifying significant effects for initial study
  - d assessment of the broad cumulative impacts
  - e effective implementation of monitoring programs,
  - f sufficient funding for mitigations
- 2 Utilize CEQA to inform decision making in consideration of League positions on Regional Planning; Housing and Economics; Environment; Transportation and Hazardous Materials on whether to:
  - a avoid the project;
  - b proceed with the project as proposed;
  - c proceed with appropriate mitigations; or
  - d proceed with an alternative project and appropriate mitigations
- 3 Apply appropriate criteria to the mitigation decision making to
  - a determine whether there is an acceptable or unacceptable process for meeting legal requirements and public need;

- b identify the comprehensive and realistic environmental impacts of a project under CEQA, including cumulative impacts; and
- c prevent or eliminate environmental damage.

## **HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

Support a hazardous materials management program that protects the public health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials in the Bay Area, including:

- 1 Identification of the hazardous materials used, stored and disposed of in each locality, including chemical/common name of hazardous material, quantity of substance and location, acute/chronic health effects and other potential risks from exposure, proper response procedures, method of disposal and route of transportation.
- 2 Disclosure to the lead governmental organization appropriate agencies and the public with proper safeguard for trade secrets and security concerns.
- 3 Mechanisms for coordination between agencies need to be developed with
  - a clearly defined agency responsibilities;
  - b clearly defined notification procedures;
  - c defined information dissemination procedures
  - d coordinated database;
  - e single body responsible for implementation
  - f statement of goals, objectives and policies for siting hazardous materials and hazardous waste facilities and for general management of hazardous materials in the foreseen future;
  - g integration with other local land use planning activities;
  - h consistency with the applicable general plan; periodic review;
  - i full and meaningful involvement of the public, environmental groups, civic associations and hazardous waste treatment or disposal facility staffs;
  - j establishment of an advisory committee with representatives from the above groups;
  - k incentives to site new hazardous waste treatment or disposal facilities; and
  - l consideration of provisions for public education, enforcement, surveillance, transportation; administration; funding for implementation; coordination between public and private sector; and incentives for waste reduction and recycling.
- 4 Adequate funding for hazardous materials management programs and public education by a combination of sources including user fees, penalties and fines, County and State General Funds, State Hazardous Waste Account, State and Federal Superfunds as appropriate.
- 5 Development of a hazardous materials management plan which should include the following elements:
  - a an analysis of existing and projected hazardous materials use and disposal by type and volume;
  - b an inventory of existing facilities for storing, handling, recycling, treating and disposal of hazardous materials and estimated capacity of each;
  - c a program for management of small volumes of hazardous materials and waste; and
  - d identification of those facilities that can be expanded to accommodate projected needs, and identification of specific sites for new facilities or general areas for locating new facilities, and siting criteria to be used in choosing sites.

## **SOCIAL POLICY - HOUSING (Updated 5/2000)**

Support a regional housing plan that provides for balanced and equitable housing throughout the region

Support federal and state legislation that facilitates the implementation of regional housing goals

Support a regional fair share housing plan as part of the broader comprehensive regional plan

- 1 Place special emphasis, consistent with compact growth principles, on local efforts to meet needs for very-low-to-moderate-income housing
- 2 State and regional guidelines for local policies that promote:
  - a higher density housing
  - b inclusionary zoning
  - c mixed-use housing
  - d housing near transit
  - e incentives for development of affordable housing
  - f incentives for rehabilitation of existing housing stock
  - g clarity and consistency in the development process
  - h emphasis on good design, maintenance and management of subsidized housing
  - i retention of subsidized housing as affordable housing
- 3 Requirement that major new commercial and industrial developments assist in providing housing for the jobs created by such developments
- 4 Establishment of a regional trust fund for the funding of needed housing development throughout the region

## **TRANSPORTATION - SURFACE (Updated 5/2000)**

Support a long-term, comprehensive planning process consistent with the comprehensive Bay Area plan and growth management framework (currently ABAG's plan) to promote compact, transit-oriented growth patterns served by an efficient, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network

Support multi-modal, efficient, convenient, cost-effective, equitable, safe transportation planned in concert with land use and viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single-occupancy vehicle use

- 1 The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as the currently designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), to develop criteria and a process for evaluation of alternative transportation investments (standard rail, light rail, BART rail, express bus, bicycle, ferry, highways, and parking facilities) as a framework for testing County proposals in order to build the most effective regional transportation system
- 2 The MPO to develop criteria and a rating system for allocating state and federal transportation funds to encourage compact, transit-oriented growth patterns, with:
  - a analysis of potential transportation investments to include their effect on future land uses in and beyond the Bay Area
  - b criteria to include reasonable fares, environmental effects on health (including air and water quality, noise reduction) and on agriculture and natural resources
  - c analysis to be presented as public information prior to selection of projects
  - d distribution of funds to be tied to cooperative local land use planning
- 3 Bay Area transit systems linked into an efficient, reliable, convenient and affordable regional transit network with attention to reasonable, fares, reduction of travel times, good feeder service, extensive hours of service, and easily comprehended directions for routes, schedules, and transit hubs, and passes for moving between systems. Good service to be encouraged by:
  - a monitoring the relative efficiency of various systems, and
  - b maintaining transit system options to mitigate interruptions in service (disasters, strikes) or to serve needs of people with special limitations
- 4 Transportation funding more reliably consistent with needs and long-term planning (e.g., annual adjustment of the gas tax to cover costs of road maintenance)

## **TRANSPORTATION - AIRPORTS (Updated 5/2014)**

**Support** coordination between environmental and land use concerns, and the need for aviation services in the Bay Area.

1. The safety of airport operations should be the primary concern in planning, designing, and operating airports.
2. Airport planning and operations should be designed to be compatible with area land uses, and with emphasis on considerations for the health, environmental, and land use impacts of the plans.
3. New development in neighboring areas that is incompatible with airport operations should be prevented through far-sighted planning and consistently enforced zoning ordinances.
4. Noise pollution from airport operations should be minimized and limited to levels that are not injurious to the health and well-being of area residents and businesses. Continuing monitoring should be required, along with the use of technical measures to mitigate noise pollution.
5. Airport access and egress should be safe and convenient for people, with an emphasis on mass transit. Convenient access should be provided for goods and services.
6. Existing airports should be maintained and improved before new ones are considered, with need, demand and cost taken into account.
7. Cooperative decision-making among jurisdictions that would be impacted is important in considering the needs of regional airports

## LWVBA Nominating Committee Report

May 2020

<b>President</b>	<b>Sherry Smith</b> Berkeley Albany Emeryville
<b>Vice President, Administration</b>	<b>Madeline Kronenberg</b> West Contra Costa County
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Leslie Stewart</b> Diablo Valley
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Mary Ann Benson</b> Piedmont
<b>Board Member: Communications</b>	<b>Veda Florez</b> Napa County
<b>Board Member: Housing/Social</b>	<b>Roma Dawson</b> San Jose/Santa Clara
<b>Board Member: Regional Government</b>	<b>Kathleen Cha</b> Oakland
<b>Board Member: Transportation</b>	<b>Alex Starr</b> Fremont/Newark/Union City
<b>Board Member: Voter Services</b>	<b>T.B.D.</b>
<b>Board Member: At large</b>	<b>Margo McGlone</b> Solano County
<b>Nominating Committee 2020-2022 Chair</b>	<b>Ann Draper, Chair</b> South San Mateo County
<b>Member</b>	<b>Ken Werner</b> Alameda
<b>Member</b>	<b>T.B.D.</b>

## LWVBA Biographies of Nominees - Convention Kit 2020

**Sherry Smith** is a retired attorney who has been a member of the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany & Emeryville for nearly 40 years. She served on their Board for several years and was twice elected President. She served for six years on the Bay Area League Board, as Vice President for Education, overseeing the publication of the *Monitor*, BAL's magazine covering issues of Bay Area regional scope. She has served on numerous not-for-profit organizational Boards, including KQED Public Media, and was President of the Berkeley-Albany Bar Association. She was appointed Foreman of the Alameda County Grand Jury, and served Berkeley civic commissions as Chair of the Police Review and Civic Arts Commissions, and as a member of the Fair Campaign Practices Commission.

**Madeline Kronenberg** is a retired Adult Education instructor and education leader – serving as Board member and President of the California Council for Adult Education Costanoan Chapter – and received their annual state Excellence in Teaching Award. She has been an active league member since 2006. A member of the West Contra Costa County League, she has served on the West Contra Costa County Board in a variety of capacities and has been on the LWV Bay Area Board since April 2015 as Administrative Vice President and later serving two terms as President. She was elected and served three terms on West Contra Costa Unified School District governing board from 2006-18. During that time, she was served as Board President twice and was elected to serve as a Delegate to the statewide California School Boards Association Delegate Assembly and as Board member and President of the Contra Costa County School Boards Association.

**Kathleen Cha** has served public, private and nonprofit sectors for more than thirty years as a Strategic Communications professional, specializing in community outreach, media and governmental affairs, and crisis communications regarding community issues, public safety, housing/transportation, and the environment. She retired in 2014 from ABAG after 14 years as Senior Communications Officer. She is currently League of Women Voters Bay Area Director with a portfolio focusing on regional governance, and Communications Manager for the League of Women Voters Oakland. She was appointed to serve on the ABAG Bay Area Regional Planning Committee (RPC) providing policy on land use, housing, environment for the 101 cities and 9 counties. As a word warrior, she is a recognized keynote speaker and leadership development/media trainer, providing media survival skills to AAUW, CAPIO, CAWA, WIN, UN, as well as other nonprofits and community groups across the country. She is an NGO delegate to the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (for the past 6 years), representing AAUW this past March at 62nd UN Commission on Status of Women, moderating a workshop session on media and technology. In her commitment to equity and community building, she is Vice Chair of A Safe Place providing comprehensive services to families suffering abuse and violence, and board member and past co-chair of Women's Intercultural Network (Win) who awarded her a 2016 Circle of Courage Award for her international leadership.

**Leslie Stewart** has been a League member for 40 years. She has served on the LWV Diablo Valley Board in multiple capacities, as well as on the boards of LWVBA and LWVC. She has worked in nonprofit administration for over 30 years; the first 19 of those years were with the Bay Area Monitor Project, where she first became acquainted with the mysteries of nonprofit accounting. She represents the League on the Contra Costa Hazardous Materials Commission. She recently served for



over 2 years as the Treasurer of the Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County. Her current hobby is genealogy.

**Mary Ann Benson** has been a League member for at least 40 years, serving as President of the Piedmont League and (10 years ago) as Secretary of the LWVBA. There have been many meetings, speakers, studies and candidate nights – all interesting and informative. Perhaps the most interesting was a joint project with the Oakland League hosting a delegation of Russian officials from the Republic of Kalmykia in 2009.

**Veda Florez** has been a member of the Marin County League since 2009, a national member for ten years before in Napa County, and is currently President of the Napa County League. She is a member of the Marin County Election Advisory Committee and the Metropolitan Transportation Agency Public Advisory Council. Veda serves as the Voter's Edge County Coordinator and plays a key role in communications for her league. She has served on the LWV Bay Area board since 2014 as Communications Director. She is a marketing consultant focused on nonprofit communications and community advocacy. Her work emphasizes voting rights and low-income issues such as transportation access and minority causes. She is the principal of the non-profit LatinoMarin.org. Veda has a firm commitment to educate the public through media communications and produces videos at every League level.

**Roma Dawson** has been a member of the San Jose/Santa Clara League for four years and on its board for two years. She has been a member of the San Jose Arts Commission since 2013 and currently serves on its Public Art Committee. She has served as a staff member for several local elected officials focusing on economic development, land use, housing, parks and recreation, budget and community engagement. She staffed an update to San Jose's General Plan, Envision 2040 and San Jose's Housing and Community Services Council Committee.

**Alex Starr** joined the League in 1995. In the LWV Fremont/Newark/Union City she was President, Membership Chair, Administrative Vice-President, forum moderator, observer for Ohlone College Board and is now VOTER editor and Action Group Chair. She has served on our LWVBA Board since 2010 as Transportation Director and organized our 2016 BALD program on transportation. Alex is a proud grandmother who trains her Chesapeake Bay Retrievers for field work.