

*Meaning of League Membership*  
*Guide to League Positions*



*League of Women Voters*

*Eden Area*

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# Welcome

A warm welcome from the League of Women Voters of Eden Area! This handbook was created to orient you to the League. It is intended as a reference to be consulted whenever questions arise.

The League is different from many organizations in that what it accomplishes comes directly from the involvement of its members. It is a grassroots organization providing every member with opportunities to learn and educate others about government, and take action on public policy. League members meet to discuss topics in a non-partisan setting. They learn effective techniques for public discussion and how to advocate on specific policies.. Our study and consensus process ensures that we are fully informed on issues before we take a stand. This approach has earned the League a national reputation for integrity and thoroughness.

Your participation in League will expose you to a breadth of experiences and issues that will not only inform you, but create greater possibilities for civic engagement than you might imagine. You can spend as much or as little time as you wish. Whether you aspire to leadership or are keen to follow the lead of experienced members, the League will excite, use, and nurture your civic curiosity, ideals, or desire for action.

To keep you informed as a member, you will receive the local *VOTER* newsletter published monthly. You may also wish to receive monthly newsletters and action alerts from the National and the State Leagues.

We may not have thought of everything in this handbook, so please contact the Membership Chair with your questions. If she or he doesn't know the answer, you will be put in touch with a member who does know.

## LWVEA Mission

### Inform, Empower, Educate

The League of Women Voters (LWV) promotes the informed and active participation in government of the public. The Eden Area League (LWVEA) embraces this mission by engaging all the communities in the Eden Area—Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, and Fairview reaching out to many ethnic groups, and participating in activities that promote an open democratic society.

## What Is League?

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a national organization divided into independent but affiliated national, state, county, and local levels. Founded in 1920 at the culmination of a 72-year struggle to gain women's suffrage, the League took as its first charge helping to educate 20 million women on how to exercise their new political rights and responsibilities.

## **Purpose**

The League of Women Voters is a unique, multi-issue, activist network that derives its strength from the energy and commitment of more than a hundred thousand members and supporters nationwide. The League does not support candidates or parties. The League does encourage the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is a force in public policy because its positions are based on sound, informed work at the grassroots level.

Although programs and priorities have changed over the years, the League has remained true to its basic purposes which are:

- to establish positions on public policy issues through member study and agreement (*consensus*)
- to take concerted action that secures public policies consistent with League positions (*advocacy*)
- to offer voter services to enhance citizen participation in federal, state, county, and local government decisions and to educate the electorate in the election process.

## ***Non-Partisan Policy***

The League's voice is heard above the partisanship of party politics because the League decided never to oppose or support either candidates for public office or political parties. It does, however, take action on a selected issue once (a) the issue has been studied, (b) consensus of the members on the position is gained, and (c) that position is later adopted at the annual convention. Therefore the League is political but NOT partisan.

To protect League's non-partisan policy, board members agree not to run for or hold political office. Additionally the President, Voter Service Director, and local Action Director may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate nor for a non-League issue.

## **Structure**

The League of Women Voters is made up of affiliated organizations at the national, state, county, and local levels. Each level of League works on policy issues within its own stratum of government. Although these issues may encompass the same topic (e.g. "transportation), the actual scope will be different, for example, highway systems at the national level versus city bus systems at the local level. The affairs of each League organization are governed by its own board of directors. In addition to guidance by its Board of Directors, members of LWVEA can participate in regular unit meetings to further the program of LWVEA.

## **Membership**

Membership is open to all people of voting age, male and female, with student memberships available for younger people. Joining the League at any level automatically confers membership at every level (national, state, county, and local) and with that membership comes the opportunity to work on issues and voter service.

## **National**

The work of the League at the national level (LWVUS) encompasses public policy issues of national scope. Examples of action on national positions include improving the Food and Drug Act, supporting measures embodied in the Social Security Act, and supporting the United Nations. More recently LWVUS has been a prominent force in campaign finance reform, health care reform, as well as understanding globalization, trade, privatization and sustainable communities.

## **State**

The League in California (LWVC) has focused its attention on statewide issues including state laws concerning the welfare of women and children, and the maintenance of public school standards. More recently LWVC has supported redistricting, a statewide master plan for water resource development, and universal health coverage.

## **Bay Area**

The Bay Area League of Women Voters focuses on regional issues which encompasses all local Leagues within the Bay Area. LWVBA has focused on region-wide issues such as environment, housing, waste management, and transportation. This group of local Leagues is organized as an Inter-League Organization or (ILO).

## **County**

The Alameda County Council League of Women Voters focuses on issues that impact Alameda County, and brings the six Leagues in Alameda County to share information and programs in addition to addressing issues that impact the county.

## **Local**

The League of Women Voters of Eden Area (LWVEA) received its corporate charter in 1957. Some of its recent accomplishments:

- Responded to Action Alerts on pending legislation by calling and/or writing elected representatives regarding legislation in the areas of: support federal campaign finance reform; and opposed federal legislation that would have a negative impact on the environment.
- Participated in Voter's Edge on the Internet, requesting candidates to list campaign information and issues on the LWVC Voter's Edge website.

## **Board of Directors**

Officers and a Board of Directors, chosen by election and by appointment, govern each level of the League. The LWVEA board has the responsibility of maintaining the non-partisan nature of the organization and deciding whether or not to engage in action on issues based on already-adopted League positions.

## **Funding**

LWVEA is directly supported by membership dues, gifts, contracts with the Registrar of Voters to maintain voter registration material sites and contracts with local homeowner groups who need an impartial third party to implement and monitor their elections.

## **How We Function**

"Program" in the League of Women Voters is the agenda of public policy issues that will receive the League's focused attention for a period of time. First, members decide which issues should be emphasized for a one or two-year "program" period. The issues may be new to the League's process of study and position adoption, or they may include old positions which need revision, deletion, re-study, or more vigorous action.

Members' recommendations go to the Board of Directors that shapes and adopts a slate of issues for concerted emphasis by the members to be voted upon at the annual meeting. This slate of issues for emphasis ("program") becomes the compass for League work which can involve research, establishing consensus, taking a position, presenting information, and many forms of advocacy.

## **Study**

When the League's members have decided which issue to study locally, a committee of members is formed with a chair to fully study it through research, interviews, participation in governmental hearings, and attending informational conferences. The results of the study are presented to the members in the form of a report for discussion and consensus on what position members decide the League should take, if any.

## **Positions**

Positions at each League level are established after members have studied issues of significance and achieved agreement on policies and practices that would best serve the public interest. Positions are periodically reviewed for current relevance. Without study and consensus on a given issue, the League has no position and takes no stand (action/advocacy).

Action/Advocacy. When a position is taken, the League works to translate the position into reality through the political process. Action may take the form of lobbying, coalition building, speaking out, publishing materials, testifying, and monitoring of governmental activity.

Although the League is a Non-Partisan organization and does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate, it does, however, take action on selected issues once they have been through the rigorous process of attaining status as a League position. It is important to understand that speakers and publications supporting a position that the League has taken after careful study are not the same speakers and publications which League uses to disseminate impartial information to voters as a service to help them make informed decisions.

The Board of Directors decides the timing of action as well as the kind and degree of action the League will undertake. Often this will take the form of a "Call to Action" which notifies members that it is a particularly opportune time to express their opinions to representatives on measures affecting a position.

## **Annual Meetings**

This is a special type of general membership meeting held at the national, state, county, and local levels, and is the forum where members determine the following:

- Adoption of the current program
- Election of officers, directors, and members of the nominating committee for the coming year
- Adoption of a budget for the coming year

## **Briefings/Training**

When appropriate, LWVEA conducts training for resource persons to discuss specific subjects to participate at public meetings or at other community organizations (such as impartial presentation of supporting and opposing arguments on upcoming ballot measures).

## **What We Do**

### **Voter Service**

Voter Service is the strength and the most important part of the League's mission and is taken very seriously. The League furthers this mission of informing the public about voting procedures, urging them to vote, and providing factual, impartial information about issues and candidates, with the following materials, procedures and events:

### ***Speakers' Bureau***

LWVEA trains its members to be speakers for groups and organizations requesting information on the supporting and opposing arguments regarding ballot measures and topics of current study.

### ***Community Meetings***

Meetings are held in different locations prior to elections to discuss ballot measures. LWVEA provides speakers at its meetings and gatherings sponsored by other organizations. All meetings are open to the general public. Upon request, separate advocacy speakers will be made available.

### ***Candidate Forums***

The League is known for sponsoring candidate debates. LWVEA has organized, presented, and moderated numerous congressional, state senate and assembly, mayoral and city council, school boards and special districts debates over the years at its own initiative and at the initiative of other co-sponsoring agencies.

### ***Voter Registration***

LWVEA provides non-partisan voter registration service where large groups of people are assembled. In coalition with other groups we encourage the public to accept their rights and responsibilities to participate in the political process. Designing ways to increase voter participation in diverse communities within Eden Area is a commitment of LWVEA. We work hand-in-hand with the County Registrar on voter outreach projects.

### ***Community Outreach***

LWVEA has been engaged in active outreach to many communities of the Eden Area (the cities of Hayward and San Leandro and the unincorporated communities of Ashland, Cherryland, Castro Valley, Fairview and San Lorenzo). The purpose is to extend the League's mission of fostering an educated and active electorate, and to broaden the League's membership making it not just a "mainstream organization" in the Eden Area but a "mainstreaming organization" that can provide a valuable resource to leaders of all of the different communities that make up our area.

### ***Election Management***

As one of the core projects that LWVEA engages in to further its mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, LWVEA manages the elections of several homeowner associations as requested.

### ***Action/Advocacy***

Action and advocacy on League positions can take many forms including:

- ***lobbying*** representatives
- ***working*** with other organizations and in coalitions to plan lobbying strategies and support
- ***speaking out*** on position-based issues through letter-writing and Internet campaigns
- ***testifying*** at legislative and administrative hearings gathering citizen input
- ***monitoring*** elections and other government activities
- ***publicizing*** LWVEA's positions and concerns through the media, petition drives and special issue campaigns

### ***Observer Corps***

LWVEA tracks how its positions on issues are faring by asking members to be observers at the meetings of governmental bodies (in person or by television if the meetings are televised). These observers do not speak for the League or express any opinion, but simply take note of what occurs and report pertinent information to the appropriate study committees or to the Board for possible action.

## **Publications**

In addition to the monthly newsletter which each member receives, they also receive online publications from the national and state Leagues. There are many publications at all levels which have been shared with, schools, libraries and governmental agencies.

## ***Electronic Communications***

Leagues at all levels have their own websites providing up-to-date information on League activities.

Voter's Edge ([www.votersedge.org](http://www.votersedge.org)) is a League-sponsored website that provides the public with a state-of-the-art source of voter information and a personalized ballot based on a specific address, that is available before elections. It also reports such information as polling place locations, candidates' profiles and positions, ballot measures with supporting and opposing arguments, and post-election results.

## **League Glossary**

**ACTION/ADVOCACY** – Steps taken to influence public policy consistent with League positions. Techniques used to achieve League goals include lobbying, legislative contact, testimony, monitoring, public statements, media campaigns, public forums, coalitions, and litigation.

**ANNUAL MEETING** – An annual membership meeting of a local League to make decisions affecting local goals and operations. At this meeting, the membership elects officers, amends bylaws, and adopts a budget, local positions, and studies.

**BRIEFING** – A training session to prepare discussion leaders, resource persons, committee members and others for presentations and discussion of the subjects at meetings. A "Briefing" is also used to prepare members for issues relevant to conventions, legislative interviews and ballot measure presentations.

**CALL TO ACTION / ALERT** – A carefully timed request from a League board asking members to take action on behalf of a League position. A request for action is known as a "call to action" by LWVC (state) and an "action alert" by LWVUS (national).

**CONCURRENCE** – Substantial member agreement reached through group discussion based on information presented by a study committee or through other methods of member participation. Members are asked to concur or agree with a statement rather than to answer a question, as is done for consensus. A concurrence statement may be a position held by another League or a decision statement recommended by a League board or study committee. It must be approved or rejected as written.

**CONSENSUS** – Substantial member agreement, preferably reached through group discussion. Consensus is the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion. Discussion is based on information prepared by a study committee and is guided by consensus questions. Consensus questions are prepared by a study committee and approved by the appropriate League Board.

**CONVENTION** – A biennial meeting at the national or state level or annual meeting at regional or local level at which officers are elected, bylaws are amended, and a budget, local positions and upcoming studies are adopted.

**DISCUSSION LEADER** – The person who guides the deliberations at a League meeting; usually a person trained to encourage maximum participation and exchange of ideas.

**EDUCATION FUND** – The tax deductible "arm" of League which underwrites only educational projects.

**ELECTION GUIDE** – A League publication containing the Pros and Cons of ballot measures and other relevant information for voters including the Easy Voter Guide and In-Depth Guide.

**INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION (ILO)** – A group of local Leagues with shared interests organized as a separate League to coordinate activities within a county, metropolitan area or region.

**OBSERVER** – A League member who attends, on a regular basis, meetings of such official bodies as city councils, school boards, or board of supervisors for the sole purpose of listening and learning about these bodies, how they function, and with which issues they are concerned.

**PER MEMBER PAYMENT (PMP)** – Annual assessment of local Leagues paid to the state (LWVC), the Bay Area League (LWVBA), and the national (LVWUS).

**PORTFOLIO** – The job or particular function of a Board position or office taken on by a member. Portfolios may also be handled by a member who is not elected or appointed as a Board Director but who is, an "off-board" director.

**POSITION** – A stand on a public policy issue that becomes the basis for action. It includes a position summary as well as specific positions established through the League's study and consensus/concurrence process, subject to regular review and re-approval.

**PROGRAM** – Those public policy issues chosen for study and/or action by the members. League principles provide authorization for adoption of program.

**UNIT MEETING** – A group of members gathered to obtain and discuss information on a regular schedule. Units are open to all.

**VERTICAL PROGRAM POSITION** – National, state or other levels of League positions are designated as "vertical" if they may be used as the basis for action at lower levels of League without prior permission.

**The VOTER** – A League newsletter generated by several levels of the League to provide information on current topics, events, and special notifications.

**VOTER SERVICE** – League activities designed to inform the public about voting procedures, to encourage citizens to vote and to provide factual, impartial information about election issues or candidates.

## **Guiding Principles**

*The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.*

*The League of Women Voters believes that good democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.*

*The League of Women Voters believes that the right to vote must be protected for every citizen; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic, or administrative discrimination.*

*The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing, and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.*

*The League of Women Voters believes that government should be responsive to the will of the people. Government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a stable and expanding economy, and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.*

*The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to the world's problems and the development of international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.*

*The League wishes to acknowledge the Los Angeles League for their contributions to this handbook.*



## LWVEA LEADERSHIP TEAMS



The **Executive Leadership Team** is comprised of current and past presidents. The duties include:

- Overall coordination of the League
- Convening League meetings
- Assuring adherence to League policies and procedures
- Providing guidance and technical assistance to other teams
- Leading our League in the development and implementation of programs and priorities for the year

The basic responsibilities of the **Leadership Teams** are:

- Recording Team (Leader: Secretary )
  - The Secretary serves as the official recorder of League business
- Financial Team (Leader: Treasurer)
  - Prepares the annual budget
  - Tracks expenses and revenue
  - Prepares internal financial reports and completes any external reports
  - Writes checks and balances accounts
  - Facilitates the annual audit and prepares the annual financial report for the League
- Program Services Team
  - Manages overall coordination of our major programs for the year
  - Works with the primary person assigned to each program to make sure the check list is developed and followed
- Voter Services Team
  - Manages Pro & Con Presentations
    - Trainer of Presenters
  - Manages Candidate Forums
  - High School Voter Registration Program
  - Oversees Voter's Edge
  - Affidavit Services
- Membership Services/Holiday Party Team
  - Membership: Manages the membership application process
  - Membership: Makes personal contact with each new member
  - Membership: Arranges New Member Orientation programs as needed
  - Membership: Keeps membership records up to date
  - Holiday – Venue: Researches venues and makes recommendations to the Board
  - Holiday – Food/Entertainment: Makes recommendations to the Board, makes contacts, manages written documentation and manages delivery
  - Holiday – Auction Items: Makes contacts with prior donors and new prospects to secure items and keeps the Auction Item List updated
  - Holiday – Decorations: Works with the decoration team
  - Holiday – Acknowledgements: Sends thank you notes to donors for their donations

- Outreach Services Team
  - Researches other organizations and venues for the purpose of recruiting additional League membership
  - Makes presentations to community groups to inform them of LWVEA's mission and activities for the purpose of outreach and recruiting new members
  - Works with various groups in co-sponsoring events
- VOTER Publication and Press Relations Services Team
  - Researches topics and issues of interest to the members and writes the monthly VOTER newsletter
- Action Services Team
  - Drafts letters advocating for League positions to various entities and forwards to the Board for consideration/approval and processes accordingly
- Multimedia Services Team
  - Posts and manages LWVEA notifications through utilization of various platforms including Facebook and Twitter
- Local Positions Team
  - Reviews all local League positions
  - Meets with a large number of members to review and comment
  - Makes recommendations to the Board for review and process
  - Presents for action any recommendation for changes at the Annual Meeting
- Nominating Team
  - Works with two LWVEA members to identify potential new Board members
  - Recruits and recommends said candidates to the membership at the Annual Meeting
- Administrative Assistance Team
  - Assists the President(s) and the Board in carrying out administrative duties which may include agendas and other written documentation

8/1/16

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – 2016**  
**LOCAL, BAY AREA, COUNTY, STATE & NATIONAL POSITIONS**  
The LWVEA can take action based on its own positions  
and from any level of League

<b>LWV EDEN AREA</b>	<b>LWVC - STATE</b>	<b>LWVUS - NATIONAL</b>	<b>LWVBA - BAY AREA</b>	<b>LWVACC COUNTY</b>
<b>Government</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Government</b>	<b>Government</b>
Boards and Commissions  Unincorporated Area	Campaign Financing Constitution Initiative & Referendum Process Intergovernmental Relations Public Libraries Redistricting State & Local Finances Voting Rights Election Systems	Voting Rights Citizen Rights Congress & the Presidency Apportionment DC Self Government & Full Voting Representation Apportionment Campaign Finance Individual Liberties Election Process Fiscal Policy	Regional Government Regional Planning	County Board of Education & County Office of Education
<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>	<b>Natural Resources</b>
Land Use Parks and Recreation District	Agriculture Air Quality Energy Hazardous Materials Land Use Solid Waste Transportation Water	Agricultural Policy Environmental Protection & Pollution Control Resource Management/ Urban Policy Energy	CEQA Mitigation Environment Air Land Use Water Solid Waste Hazardous Materials Management	

LWV EDEN AREA	LWVC - STATE	LWVUS - NATIONAL	LWVBA - BAY AREA	LWVACC COUNTY
<b>Social Policy</b>	<b>Social Policy</b>	<b>Social Policy</b>	<b>Social Policy</b>	<b>Social Policy</b>
Mental Health Care Services  Library Services	Child Care Community College Ed P-K to 12 Housing Juvenile Justice Dependency Legal Aid Mental Health Care Higher Education	Child Care Equality of Opportunity Gun Control Health Care Policy Meeting Basic Human Needs Public Participation Privatization Fiscal Policy Death Penalty Fed Role in K-12 Ed Immigration	Housing/ Transportation Airports  Surface Transportation	Children's Mental Health Services  Juvenile Justice
		<b>International Relations</b>		
		Arms Control Military Policy & Defense Spending Trade United Nations US Relations with Developed Countries		

# SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## League of Women Voters® of the United States

### REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

#### Voting Rights

**Citizen's Right to Vote.** Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

**DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation.** Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

#### Election Process

**Apportionment.** Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

**Campaign Finance.** Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

**Selection of the President.** Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

#### Citizen Rights

**Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation.** Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.

**Individual Liberties.** Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

**Public Policy on Reproductive Choices.** Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

#### Congress and the Presidency

**Congress.** Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

**The Presidency.** Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries.

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

## **NATURAL RESOURCES**

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

#### Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

**Air Quality.** Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

**Energy.** Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

**Land Use.** Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

**Water Resources.** Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

**Waste Management.** Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

**Nuclear Issues.** Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

#### Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

#### Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

**Federal Agriculture Policies.** Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply

### **SOCIAL POLICY**

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

#### Equality of Opportunity

**Equal Rights.** Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

**Education, Employment and Housing.** Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

**Federal Role in Public Education.** Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

#### Fiscal Policy

**Tax Policy.** Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

**Federal Deficit.** Promote responsible deficit policies.

**Funding of Entitlements.** Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

#### Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents and controls health care costs.

#### Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

#### Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

**Income Assistance.** Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

**Support Services.** Provide essential support services.

**Housing Supply.** Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

#### Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

#### Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

#### Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

#### Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

#### Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

#### Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

#### Sentencing Policy

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

#### Human Trafficking

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review



## LWV California STATE POSITIONS IN BRIEF

### GOVERNMENT

**Campaign Financing:** Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions which will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office. 1973, updated in 1976

**Constitution:** Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified State Constitution: provisions which enable the Legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly, and with responsibility clearly fixed, and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state. 1957, updated in 1965-67

**Election Systems:** Support election systems for executive offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election. 2001, amended by concurrence in 2003

**Initiative and Referendum Process:** Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process. 1984, updated in 1999

**Intergovernmental Relationships:** Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public. 1981

**Public Libraries:** Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society. 1998

**Redistricting:** Support a state redistricting process and standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny. Supports a bipartisan commission as the preferred redistricting body. 1988

**State and Local Finances:** Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt. Support a process that maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates and tax expenditures, that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs and local

governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and which encourages accountability. Support an equitable, broad-based local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue with limitations on the types of services it funds. Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, easy to understand and well publicized, with like properties treated uniformly. 1969, updated 1975, new positions in 1976, 1977, 1981, & 1995

**Voting Rights:** Support measures which will protect every citizen's right to vote and which will ensure government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate. 1972, reviewed in 1986

### **NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Agriculture:** Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource which must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation. Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs which include comprehensive planning, zoning measures and other preservation techniques. State policy which affects agriculture should ensure the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives coupled with penalties for noncompliance. 1983

**Air Quality:** Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards. 1971, updated in 1973

**Energy:** The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation and energy efficiency. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures. 1978, updated in 1980 & 2006

**Hazardous Materials:** Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposures through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bio-accumulation, air pollution and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures. 1986, 1987

**Land Use:** Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation. 1975

**Solid Waste:** Support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials. 1973

**Transportation:** Support a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost-effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education. 1981, revised in 1985, new position in 1991

**Water:** Support measures which promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use. 1959, updated in 1959, updated in 1961, 1967, 1971, & 1979

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

**Child Care:** Support state and local policies, legislation and programs which meet the need for accessible, affordable, and quality child care. 1989

### **Community College System**

Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning. Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs. 2003

**Education, Pre-K through 12:** Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students. Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students. Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program. 1973, updated in 1985 and 2005

**Housing:** Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support of measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians. 1970, updated in 1973 & 1993

**Juvenile Justice/Dependency:** Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, which serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and which rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well-being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society. Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services that work with children, youth, families and schools. Support community efforts to provide safe supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems. Support the rights and best interests of the child in preference to those of any other individual. 1997, 1999

**Legal Aid:** Support measures that will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services. 1971, revised in 1983

**Mental Health Care:** Support for an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management. 1998

## LWVBA POSITIONS 2012-2014

### 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. 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**

**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;
  - 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**

**This is a vertical position – Local Leagues are authorized to take local action on the basis of it.**

**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 data base;
  - 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 5/2012)

**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** planning processes that consistently involve public participation designed to include:

- a. outreach to all communities, with particular attention to those that are underserved by public transit;
- b. presentations that are simple, clear, and easily comprehended by a public not versed in transportation acronyms and jargon, and that are provided in the languages appropriate to non-English-speaking persons;
- c. follow-up evaluation by participants that includes measurement of their satisfaction with the materials and the presentation and their confidence that their needs have been understood and are being addressed.

**Support** a transportation system that offers viable alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use, that is designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single-occupancy vehicle use, and that is:

- a. multi-modal,
- b. efficient,
- c. convenient,
- d. reliable,
- e. cost-effective,
- f. accessible to people with disabilities,
- g. equitable, and
- h. safe.

1) The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as the currently designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), **should** develop criteria and a process for evaluating all applicable modes of public transit and pedestrian and bicycle alternatives as a framework for testing proposals in order to build the most effective regional transportation system.

2) The MPO should develop criteria and a system for allocating state and federal transportation funds to encourage compact, transit-oriented growth patterns, with:

- a. an analysis of potential transportation investments that includes their effects on future land uses in and beyond the Bay Area;
- b. criteria for evaluating alternative transportation investments that include reasonable fares, environmental effects on health (including air and water quality, noise reduction), on the production of greenhouse gas emissions, and on agriculture and natural resources;
- c. the analyses are to be presented as public information prior to selection of projects;
- d. the distribution of funds is to be tied to cooperative local land use planning

- 3) Bay Area transit systems should be linked into an efficient, reliable, convenient and affordable regional transit network with:
  - a. attention to reasonable fares, reduction of travel times, extensive hours of service, and good feeder service;
  - b. easily comprehended materials describing routes, schedules, and transit hubs; and
  - c. a fare payment method that can be used on all systems.
- 4) Good service is 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) and to serve needs of people with special limitations
- 5) Transportation funding should be 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 5/2000)**

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

1. Prevention of encroachment by incompatible development through far-sighted planning and consistently enforced zoning ordinance.
2. Primary consideration for safety
3. Airport planning and operations compatible with neighboring uses
4. Minimizing noise pollution and limiting to levels non-injurious to health and enjoyment of life with continuing monitoring and use of mitigating technical measures
5. Safe, convenient and preferably mass transit access to airports
6. Improvement of existing airports before new ones are considered, with need, demand and cost taken into account
7. Cooperation among jurisdictions in considering regional airport needs.

# ALAMEDA COUNTY COUNCIL POSITIONS

## COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS OF SCHOOLS COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

**Position in Brief:** Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of governance with accountability to the public that results in providing services that best meet the need of students and the local school districts.

- **Efficiency:** Provide those services (education, training, fiscal, oversight) to county school programs and district school programs which do not duplicate those provided by districts or other agencies
- **Effectiveness** - Provide those services which best meet the needs of local districts, their interests and need. Constantly monitor services to determine their effectiveness and remove or improve those that are not meeting stated goals.
- **Equitable Balance of Responsibility and Authority for Governance**
  - For those counties that have an elected Board and elected Superintendent, establish policies that delineate the powers and functions of each entity where not covered explicitly in the Education Code to ensure an equitable balance of responsibility and authority for governance and to enhance accountability.
  - Provide for consolidation of functions between and among county offices of education to deal with area-wide problems. Consider consolidation of functions to achieve cost savings and improve the quality of service.
- **Accountability to the Public**
  - Ensure that both levels of governance abide by the tenets of the Brown Act, and the Freedom of Information Act.
  - Maintain public visibility by utilizing technology to keep constituents informed about actions taken by the Board, the County Office and the County Superintendent.
- Advertise upcoming elections for Board members and the County Superintendent seat to encourage contested elections. This will allow the public to learn about the candidates' credentials and the issues so they can make informed choices.
  - Develop a collaborative Annual Work Plan that sets up measurable goals to be used in the annual evaluation of both Board Member and Superintendent performance. The evaluation may then be helpful in the Superintendent salary-setting process.

## Monitoring

- The League should continue observing County Board of Education meetings to ensure compliance with the Brown Act and Education Code.
- The League should monitor the County Office website to ensure that constituents have access to current and complete information concerning actions take by the County Office/Superintendent and the Board.
- The League should review Grand Jury comments and recommendations pertaining to the County Board and County Superintendent and support those that seek to improve the efficient, effective, and appropriate governance of those entities.
- The League should periodically review the governance model to determine if there is any interest by the public in changing the method of selecting a County Superintendent.

Feb. 2006

## CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES POSITION

- The Leagues of Women Voters of Alameda County support the need for Children's Mental Health Services and recommend the following:
  - Increase the priority given Children's Mental Health Services in the County Mental health program and budget.
  - Retain present service and ensure equal access to Day Treatment Service throughout the County.
- Focus on prevention and early intervention by:
  - Increased education of parents and public.
  - Utilization of school resources where feasible.
- Finance these services by:
  - Active pursuit of all available sources of funds.
  - Coordination of County, State and Federal budget deadlines.
  - Sufficient funds for a service from the level of government that mandates that service.
- Make most efficient use of funds by:
  - Retention and expansion of contracts with private providers.
  - Support for Case Management system of services.
  - Increased coordination and communication among all public and private service providers and continuation of the Interagency Council.

Adopted 1979

HB38

## JUVENILE JUSTICE

The Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters supports policies that promote services to meet the needs of Alameda County and minimize delinquency.

The County Council supports effective and responsible decision-making for youth at the county level. Specifically the council supports:

- Continuing evaluation of the Alameda County Probation Department Juvenile Division to ensure that its goals and functions are clear and effective; Continued citizen input into all countywide juvenile justice programs;
- Coordination of all community programs for Alameda County youth to ensure that the needs of the communities are met and that duplication of services is avoided; Citizen involvement in setting priorities for diversion and prevention services; Continued evaluation and accountability to the public of programs funded by public moneys.
- County decision-making bodies:
  - Appointments to commissions that reflect the diversified population of the county;
  - Guidelines for commission members which are clear statements of their responsibilities and authority;
  - Adequate staff;
  - Assessment of limited number of terms;
  - Reimbursement to commissioners for personal expenses, i.e., transportation and baby sitting.

The County Council supports a coordinated multidimensional concept of services which could include:

- Vocational training;
- Programs that provide jobs and job training for youth;
  - Recreational opportunities;
- Counseling for youth and their families, both long-term and for crises;
- Mental health services which meet the needs of youth, supported by adequate funding, i.e., residential treatment centers for juveniles;
- Youth diversion programs:
  - Staff and volunteers having close ties to the community of the juveniles being served;
  - Involvement of youth in program planning, implementation and evaluation;
  - Integration into projects available with other than just delinquent youths;
  - Adequate program facilities.

The County Council encourages school districts to deal effectively with pupil welfare and pupil attendance, i.e., truancy, child neglect, child abuse and severe behavior problems.

The County Council supports greater community awareness of the problems and needs of youth and programs that are currently available.

Adopted 1977

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDEN AREA  
LOCAL POSITIONS**

**GOVERNMENT**

**BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports a responsive, visible system of county and city boards and commissions as a means of ensuring effective resident involvement in the government decision-making process.

Policies to promote:

- A. An up-to-date directory of boards and commissions to make the following information available to the public, including electronically:
  - Functions and jurisdictions
  - Dates and places of regular meetings
  - Staffing
  - Dates of commissioners' appointments and by whom appointed
  - Length of terms.
  
- B. Public awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of elected and appointed members.
  
- C. Limitation of appointments to two full terms or ten years, whichever is longer.
  
- D. Listing of specific costs of commissions in budgets.
  
- E. Publicizing vacancies and applicant requirements.
  
- F. Periodic review of existing boards and commissions including Brown Act compliance.
  
- G. Justification for formation of new boards and commissions; discontinuance of unnecessary boards and commissions.
  
- H. Effective communication and coordination between boards and commissions and the elected bodies which appoint them.
  
- I. Adoption by public agencies of policies and procedures which require the use of alternative dispute resolution processes (ADR)\* in local public policy disputes as a predecessor/supplement to the traditional litigation process, ADR: non-adversarial collaborative approaches to building consensus and resolving differences.

Boards and Commissions:

Alternative Dispute Resolution:

Adopted 1980 (H) (SL)

Concurrence:

1996 (EA)

Updated: 1990 (EA)

Updated: **2005** (EA)

## UNINCORPORATED AREAS

*A re-study of this position was recommended in the 2004 Program Planning. The study committee is presently meeting and may have it ready for review at the January 2016 Program Planning Meeting.*

I. The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports the policy that all urbanized unincorporated areas within Eden Township become municipal, that payment for property-related services be equitable, and that there be active participation by residents of the unincorporated areas in development of policies which will affect them.

Policies to promote:

A. Ensure that urban unincorporated areas should incorporate or annex to an existing municipality. This policy does not assume automatic dissolution of special districts.

B. Support the equitable payment for property-related services by service users in incorporated or unincorporated areas, the political entities providing these services include sanitary, water, and fire services not provided by city or county. (Parks are considered as property-related; their recreational programs are not.)

C. Include maintenance, operations, and capital development costs in the definition of equitable payment.

D. Evaluate existing property-related services for effectiveness when unincorporated areas incorporate or annex to ensure adequate information to be used in decision-making.

E. Support special policies by Alameda County and the Local Agency formation Commission (LAFCO) for the heavily urbanized unincorporated areas of Eden Township with respect to special districts.

F. Support more broad representation on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

G. Support the greatest possible citizen participation by people in unincorporated areas in all questions of incorporation and annexation.

II. Study appropriate means for local residents in the unincorporated areas to take an active part in the decision-making process. The overriding consensus of the League is that there is a particular need at this time of economic crises and changing governmental relations to reiterate League unerring support for resident participation at all levels of government if the democratic nature of that government is to be preserved in any real sense. Therefore, in relation to the particular problems facing residents in unincorporated areas, the League supports the following institutional and attitudinal changes:

A. An institutional change from unincorporated to incorporated. This would minimize the excessive fragmentation which exists because the government of the unincorporated areas now consists of uncoordinated special functions. This change would allow for greater resident participation, and in turn, would create a more effective governmental structure.

B. In order to bring about the kind of institutional change which is needed, the League supports the organization of community-based groups. Such organizations create mechanisms through which individual residents may band together to more effectively:

1. Promote annexation and incorporation efforts
2. Lobby to obtain quasi-governmental groups for their areas, such as Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs)
3. Coordinate the other ordinary means of being heard, such as letter-writing campaigns, testifying, writing position papers, getting a member appointed or elected to advisory or elected positions, or, if necessary, bringing suit.

C. Because the institutional change is a long-range goal, the League supports the improvement of current governmental practices. The Board of Supervisors and special districts should promote cooperation among these fragmented governmental entities for greater efficiency and accessibility.

1. Boards must be both intellectually and financially committed to resident participation with a recognition of the importance of readily available information such as:

- (a) meeting times and places
- (b) agendas which are understandable by the layman
- (c) minutes which are accessible without undue cost
- (d) procedures for testifying
- (e) procedures for following through on particular concerns
- (f) budget
- (g) use of electronic mail and Internet

2. Board decisions, both in the pre- and post- deliberative stages, should be open to public process. There is a special need for decisions made at one level be communicated to other affected levels in order to provide for coordinated planning.

D. The following actions are recommended:

1. Monitor the activities of boards and commissions, especially the Board of Supervisors, the Local Agency formation Commission, and other boards and commissions that affect services in the Unincorporated Area.

2. Encourage increased and more effective media coverage in the local press and cable television perhaps in the form of a Supervisors' Report, including televised coverage of Board of Supervisors meetings.

3. Heighten the awareness of residents who make decisions in their areas on how to approach and influence decision-makers by:

(a) Encouraging the Board of Supervisors to continue to meet on a regular basis in the Unincorporated Area, and to continue the Unincorporated Services Committee.

(b) Continuing the League telephone hot line to help residents gain information on voting and cutting through red tape. The hot line could provide information on whom to call, when, and how to do it.

4. Monitor for possible study the problems of unincorporated areas, including effect on land use planning, delivery of services and costs, function of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and specific budget information on county expenses and income for each unincorporated area.

Adopted: 1979 (H)      Consensus: 1990 (EA)  
Adopted: 1982 (H)      Updated: 1997, 2005 (EA)

## **LAND USE AND PLANNING**

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports positive planning policies to achieve a livable and harmonious physical environment for a diverse population with a healthy balance of residential, commercial, industrial, public uses and open space; a variety of densities and housing types; and the necessary services and amenities for all residents.

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports measures which ensure protection for parks, open space, agricultural land, and baylands with emphasis on comprehensive regional land use planning, control of urban sprawl, transportation and increased inclusive public participation and review in land use decisions.

Policies to promote:

- A. General and Master Plans: support the concept of the General Plan as a guide to long-range planning.
- B. General and Master Plans that are comprehensive, flexible, and innovative, and require adequate public discussion to change designations and more extensive notification procedures prior to hearings and appeals on rezoning, variances, and conditional use.
- C. Specific planning for urban growth (infilling) rather than continued urban sprawl; choices should include single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, which include affordable housing; density compatible with surrounding community, with quality and inclusion of an adequate transportation plan for such developments.
- D. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines should be followed in recommendations for mitigation and identification of the comprehensive and realistic environmental impacts of a project. Support the LWV Bay Area policy.
- E. Zoning: Support a planning approach to zoning which conforms to the General Plan.
  - 1. Strengthening requirements for naturally developed open space.
  - 2. Greater compliance by Planned Unit Development (PUD) to the presented precise plans.

When a PUD is approved by a city or county planning commission/council, the Board of Supervisors should allow only minor modifications. Major modifications to a PUD should require a public hearing and input.

F. Adequate funding should be provided to cities and counties for general and specific plan development.

G. Planning Commissions should represent the entire community, have standards and procedures for appointment, and do long-range planning and study, including capital improvement projects which relate to the General Plan.

H. Provision for structured resident participation in the process of land use planning in addition to that provided by the city commissions and county.

I. Rationalization of city boundaries by annexation or de-annexation of properties outside of influence.

J. Community concurrence with the decisions made by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of city boundary annexation or de-annexation of properties of adjacent spheres of influence.

## **PARKS AND RECREATION**

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports measures that ensure that adequate parks and recreational facilities are provided for all the communities served by the various recreation and park districts in the Eden Area. Protection should be provided for natural resources, open space and environmentally sensitive areas. Adequate funding should be available to provide a variety of recreational opportunities.

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports:

- Important multi-jurisdictional recreational opportunity providers and protectors of many natural and man-made assets;
- The maintenance and enhancement of the refuges, park system areas, trails, baylands, and recreation programs provided within the Eden Area;
- Efforts to avoid fragmenting the established districts or eroding their tax bases in order to effectively operate these important community facilities and services;
- Formation of a citizen's advisory committee for Hayward Area Recreation and Park District.

Policies to promote:

A. Encourage joint planning and cooperative projects for the acquisition and creation of parklands, Baylands, Ridgeland, open space and trails for recreational and educational uses by the East Bay Regional Park District, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, Alameda County, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the City of Hayward, and the City of San Leandro.

B. Adoption, continual review and updating of the Master Plans to guide acquisition and development with emphasis on preservation of the area's natural state of parklands, park facilities, and trails within districts.

C. Purchase of Baylands jointly by public agencies--local, regional, state, and federal--with funding capabilities. Wetlands on the shoreline should be protected and enlarged wherever possible. Local governments, with the help of citizen involvement, can benefit in the long term from a protected shoreline.

1. Preserve the historical and education value of area salt ponds.

2. Reversion to marshes of as many areas as possible.
3. Consideration of the creation of a freshwater lake as a much-needed watering area for water birds and other species needing other than Bay waters.

D. Encourage joint planning and cooperative projects for the acquisition and creation and maintenance of parklands, Baylands, Ridglands, open space and trails for recreational and educational uses by the East Bay Regional Park District, the Hayward Area Park and Recreation District, Alameda County, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the City of Hayward, the City of San Leandro, state and federal agencies.

E. Expenditure of capital funds on an equitable basis in line with the priorities in Master Plans within the districts.

F. Acquisition of parklands for recreation, conservation of significant habitat areas, protection of rare species, and educational development.

- Acquisition of new parklands
- Wetlands (Baylands) and shorelines
- Trails, including Bay Trails, Ridge Trails, Creek Corridors, and Bay-to-Bridge connections

G. Protection of existing parklands from degradation; urban freeway, utility lines, visual intrusion, and traffic.

H. Promotion of public discussion and input for Master Plan and planning process.

<b>Hay Land Use</b>	<b>Eden Area Planning</b>	<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	<b>EA Shoreline</b>
Adopted: 1963 (H)	Adopted: 1981 (SL)	Adopted: 1968 (H)	Adopted: 1972
Updated: 1964 (H)	Consensus: 1990	Consensus: 1990 (EA)	Consensus: 1990
Consensus: 1990	Updated: 1993 (EA)	Updated: 1997	
Updated: 1997		Updated: 2005 (EA)	
Updated: 2005			

## **SOCIAL POLICY**

### **MENTAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES**

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports the availability of comprehensive mental health care for all residents of Alameda County, regardless of their ability to pay for these services.

Policies to promote:

A. Implementation of legislation and regulations that provide community-based mental health care.

B. A three-tiered module approach consisting of prevention, intervention and follow-up therapy for patients of all ages.

C. Emphasis placed on meeting the needs of children and veterans.

- D. Appropriate level of treatment of patients in their local environment when possible.
- E. Expansion of the number of quality facilities in all communities to provide necessary follow-up care for the mentally ill, particularly those who have been hospitalized.
- F. Use of sliding fee scale to ensure that community health care clinics serve all residents in need of mental health care services.
- G. Support requirement of appropriate level of training for providers of mental health care services.
- H. Support appropriate level of compensation for mental health care service providers.
  - 1. Support collaboration, including funding sources and other resources, of community health care service providers with other agencies and community-based organizations to meet the mental health care needs of all residents.
  - 2. Support initiatives that increase funding for improved mental health care services, and lower costs for medication for mental health care patients.
  - 3. Support community development of resources promoting publicly accessible mental health education and awareness.
  - 4. Eliminate barriers and disparities for providing appropriate mental health services for different ethnic population.
  - 5. Effective implementation of evidence-based best practices and support for research in mental health care.
  - 6. Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as other programs and initiatives that protect and enhance patients' rights.

Mental health Care: Adopted: 1970 (H)

Consensus: 1990 (EA)

Updated: 1974 (H)

Updated: 2000 (EA)

Updated: 2005 (EA)

## **LIBRARY SERVICES**

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports a free public library system that meets the informational, educational, technological, recreational and legal research needs of all residents and that is financed with long-term, assured, stable and adequate public funding.

The LWVEA supports access by all persons to free library services/functions that educate and inform on a wide variety of issues to facilitate public participation in government decision-making and civil discourse. That includes providing residents with the necessary educational resources to improve and assist both the community and themselves for their own individual interests and for the betterment of society.

**Policies to promote:**

A. Measures to improve patron service:

1. Ensure library services and resources are up-to-date in technology;
2. Achieve sizable book and non-print collections which meet information needs of the public;
3. Provide adequate hours of service, including evening and weekend hours, and maintain staffing levels adequate for the hours open, size of collection, and usage level;
4. Continue the use of volunteers to support staff;
5. Encourage cooperation between the public library system, colleges, and local school districts including after-school homework programs, etc.;
6. Provide assistance to those who need special help for access to library services and information technologies;
7. Continue to offer special programs to build a love of reading for all children;
8. Provide literacy and life-long learning services funded by public and/or private sources, offered free for those who qualify or with a sliding scale;
9. Encourage library facilities to be in both safe and accessible locations.

B. Construction of new libraries and improvement and expansion of existing libraries as needed to serve population growth both within cities and in unincorporated areas.

C. Methods for financing construction of new libraries, expansion, and/or rehabilitation of existing facilities should be a top priority;

1. A state bond issue; a National Library Services and Technology Act grant; a local tax, such as utility-user tax, parcel tax, assessments or districts' general funds;
2. Private contributions;
3. Consolidation of functions/systems to achieve cost effectiveness;

D. Encourage community participation in advising and shaping library policies and services through Advisory Commissions, Friends and Foundation groups as well as other relevant and appropriate venues.

E. Review of annual costs to operate libraries and of charges assessed to patrons for other than basic library service.

Adopted: 1981 (SL)    Consensus: 1990 (EA)    Revised: 1991 (EA)  
Updated: 1997 (EA)  
Updated: 2005 (EA)  
Updated: 2015 (EA)  
Updated: 2016 (EA)



## BYLAWS

For the regulation, except as otherwise provided by statute or its Articles of Incorporation, of the  
**League of Women Voters of the Eden Area**  
A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

### ARTICLE I NAME AND FORM

Section 1. **Name.** The name of this corporation shall be the League of Women Voters of the Eden Area, consisting of the cities of Hayward and San Leandro, and the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo (herein referred to as LWVEA). LWVEA is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (herein referred to as the LWVUS), the League of Women Voters of California (herein referred to as the LWVC), the Inter-League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area (herein referred to as the LWVBA) and the Alameda County Council (herein referred to as the LWV-ACC).

Section 2. **Form.** LWVEA shall be a nonprofit public benefit corporation under the laws of the State of California.

### ARTICLE II PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. **Purposes.** The purposes of the LWVEA are to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. **Political Policy.** The LWVEA shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

### ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. **Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVEA and who pays dues as provided for in Article VII, Section 2, shall be a Member of the LWVEA (herein referred to as a "Member").

Section 2. **Types of Membership.** The membership of the League shall be composed of Voting Members and Associate Members.

a. **Voting Members.** Voting Members shall be citizens of the United States and at least 18 years of age.

(1) **Life Members.** Life Members shall be those Voting Members who have been Members of the LWVUS for 50 years or more. Life Members are excused from the payment of dues.

(2) **Student Members.** Students who are citizens and at least 18 years of age may join LWVEA and be Voting Members if they meet the following criteria:

be registered and attending a high school or registered and attending a college on a full-time basis. A full-time college student is one who maintains twelve (12) units or more each quarter/semester. Student Membership dues shall be at a rate fifty percent (50%) or less than the dues of Voting Members.

b. **Non-Voting Members.** All others who join the League shall be Associate Members.

**Section 3. Termination of Membership.** Membership status may be terminated as follows:

a. A Member may voluntarily resign at any time by delivering a written notice to the President or the Secretary. Resignation shall be effective upon the date and time specified by the Member or upon receipt of such notice.

b. Membership shall terminate upon the death of a Member.

c. League membership terminates upon nonpayment of dues, as indicated by Article VII, Section 2. Dues.

d. The Board may terminate a Member's membership for conduct that the Board shall deem inimical to the best interests of the LWVEA, including, without limitation, flagrant violation of any provisions of these Bylaws, failure to satisfy membership qualifications, or for behavior that impairs the ability of the Board to function according to these Bylaws. The Board shall give such Member fifteen (15) days prior notice of the proposed action and the reasons. The Member may submit a written statement to the Board regarding the proposed action no less than five (5) days before the effective date of the proposed action. Prior to the effective date of the proposed action, the Board shall review any such statement submitted and shall determine the mitigating effect, if any, of the information contained therein on the proposed action.

## **ARTICLE IV OFFICERS**

**Section 1. Enumeration and Election of Officers.**

a. The Officers of the League shall be a President (or Board Assistant), First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall be elected by LWVEA Members at an Annual Meeting and shall take office immediately. The Immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the Board and the Executive Committee. The President, First Vice President of Program, and Secretary shall be elected in even-numbered years. The Second Vice President of Membership and the Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Officers shall hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

b. In the event the LWVEA is unable to fill the Office of President, this section shall authorize the Executive Committee to:

(1) carry out the designated duties of the President and/or;

(2) appoint a Board Assistant to serve as a member of the Executive Committee.

c. The Office of the President may be held concurrently by more than one person. One of the Co-Presidents shall be designated as a "President of Record" and will sign all legal documents for the LWVEA.

**Section 2. President.** The President shall preside at all General Meetings of the LWVEA and of the Board of Directors. If the President is temporarily unable to conduct a meeting, she/he may designate someone else to preside. In the absence or disability of the Treasurer, the President may sign or endorse checks, drafts, contracts and notes. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating Committee and the Financial Review Committee and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the Office of President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

**Section 3. Vice Presidents.**

a. The First Vice President of Program in the absence, disability or death of the President shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Office until the Board shall fill the vacancy. The First Vice President of Program is also responsible for coordinating the LWVEA educational programs, forums and the annual Program Planning meeting. The Vice President of Program shall have such other powers and perform other such duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

b. The Second Vice President of Membership in the absence, disability or death of the President and First Vice President of Program shall perform those duties of the Office until the Board shall fill the vacancy. The Second Vice President of Membership shall coordinate or oversee membership activities, such as recruitment and orientation of members, notification of annual dues, review and approval of membership reports to LWVUS, LWVC, LWVBA and all other related duties. The Vice President of Membership shall have such other powers and perform other such duties as may be prescribed by the Board.

**Section 4. Secretary.**

a. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept, at the principal office or such other place as the Board may order, a book and electronic file of minutes of all meetings of the Board and its committees, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special, (and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given) the names of those present, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board required by these Bylaws. The Secretary shall also keep minutes of the Annual Meeting and shall sign with the President all contracts and other instruments when so

authorized by the Board.

b. The Secretary shall keep, or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of California, the original or a copy of the current LWVEA Articles and Bylaws. The Secretary shall have such other powers and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

#### **Section 5. Treasurer.**

a. The Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer of the LWVEA and shall keep and maintain, adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the LWVEA. The books of account shall at all times be open to inspection by any Director. The President shall arrange for an Annual Audit or review of the financial records.

b. The Treasurer shall deposit all money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the LWVEA with federally insured financial institutions designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the LWVEA as may be ordered by the Board, shall render to the President and the Directors, at each regularly scheduled Board meeting, or as shall be determined by the Board, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the LWVEA, and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall present a financial report to the Members at the Annual Meeting, and a year-end financial report within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the close of the fiscal year, in accordance with Article VII, Section 6.

**Section 6. Board Assistant.** If a President or Co-Presidents have not been duly elected, a Board Assistant may be elected or appointed to perform the following duties:

- a. attend Executive Committee meetings with full voting privileges;
- b. receive and distribute mail;
- c. follow through on timely matters and report results thereof;
- d. place LWVEA on appropriate business/planning calendars and mailing lists to ensure time to send representatives as needed;
- e. make arrangements to ensure that the LWVEA is appropriately represented at functions designated by the Board.

### **ARTICLE V BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Section 1. Number of Directors.** The authorized number of Directors shall not be less than nine (9) nor more than fifteen (15). Any reduction in the authorized number of Directors shall not remove any Director prior to the expiration of the Director's term of office. The number of Directors includes the Officers designated in Article IV, Section 1.

**Section 2. Selection of Directors.** Directors specified in Section 1 of this Article shall be elected by a majority of Members eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Up to four (4) Directors may be appointed by the elected Board members, not to exceed the maximum of fifteen (15) total Board Members, as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the LWVEA. Newly elected Directors shall take office immediately following the Annual Meeting.

**Section 3. Term of Office.** The Directors shall hold office for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been elected or appointed and qualified.

**Section 4. Qualifications.** All Directors must be voting members of LWVEA.

**Section 5. Vacancies.**

a. Subject to the provisions of Section 5226 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, any Director may resign effective upon giving written notice to the President or the Secretary of the Board. Such resignation will be effective when received unless the notice specifies a later time for such resignation. If the resignation is effective at a future time, a successor may be selected before such time, to take office when the resignation becomes effective.

b. Vacancies on the Board, including the Office of the President, shall be filled by election by a majority of the remaining Directors. Each Director so selected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the replaced Director or until a successor has been selected and qualified. A vacancy or vacancies on the Board shall be deemed to exist in case of the death, resignation, or removal of any Officer or Director, or if the authorized number of Directors be increased.

c. The Board may declare vacant the office of a Director who has not attended three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board without a valid reason, or who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court, or convicted of a felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty arising under Article 3 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

**Section 6. Powers and Duties.**

a. Subject to the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and California Nonprofit Corporation Law Section 5231, the activities and affairs of the LWVEA shall be conducted and all LWVEA powers shall be exercised by or under the control of the Board. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out programs on selected governmental issues as adopted by the LWVUS Convention, the LWVC Convention, the LWVBA Convention, the Alameda County Council, and the LWVEA Annual Meeting.

b. Changes to LWV-ACC Bylaws. The LWVEA Board is authorized to instruct its representative on the LWV-ACC to approve or disapprove proposed changes to the Bylaws of the LWV-ACC.

c. Voting Ballot Measures. For LWVEA to endorse or oppose a ballot measure, a seventy-five percent (75%) majority vote of the authorized number of Directors in

office shall be required. Directors, if not present at the meeting, must be polled. If a seventy-five percent (75%) majority of the Directors in office are unable to agree on the action or application of League positions, then LWVEA will take no action.

#### **Section 7. Meetings of the Board.**

a. **Regular Board Meetings.** There shall be at least nine (9) regular meetings of the Board annually. At their first meeting, the Board shall set the time and place for such meetings. No action taken at any regular Board meeting attended by a quorum shall be invalidated because of the failure of any director to receive any notice properly sent.

b. **Special Meetings.**

(1) The President may call special meetings of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon written request of any two (2) Officers or any four (4) Directors of the Board.

(2) Special meetings of the Board shall be held upon four (4) days notice by first-class mail or forty-eight (48) hours notice given personally, by telephone, or electronically. Any such notice shall be addressed or delivered to each Director at such Director's address as it is shown upon the records of the LWVEA or as may have been given to the LWVEA by the Director for purposes of notice or, if such address is not shown on such records or is not readily ascertainable, at the place in which the meeting of the directors is regularly held.

c. **Notice.** Notice by mail shall be deemed to have been given at the time a written notice is deposited in the United States mail or electronically delivered to the recipient. Oral notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time it is communicated, in person by telephone, or electronically to the recipient or to a person at the office of the recipient who the person giving the notice has reason to believe will promptly communicate it to the intended receiver.

d. **Quorum.**

(1) A majority of the Directors then in office constitutes a quorum of the Board for the transaction of business, except to adjourn as provided in Section 9 of Article V. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the Directors present at a meeting and duly held, at which a quorum is present, shall be regarded as the action of the Board, unless a greater number be required by law or by these Bylaws. However, no action can be taken without the required quorum.

(2) A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business even if Directors withdraw, if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the quorum required for the meeting.

**Section 8. Participation in Meetings by Electronic Conferencing**— Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or other communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear and speak to one another, or otherwise communicate with one another on

an accessible basis such as through the use of sign language or a TDD. Notice, quorum, and other requirements for the conduct of meetings shall apply.

Section 9. **Adjournment.** A majority of the directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any directors' meeting to another time and place. If the meeting is adjourned for more than twenty-four (24) hours, notice of any adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the directors who were not present at the time of the adjournment.

Section 10. **Action Without Meeting.** Directors may take action between meetings by mail or an e-mail ballot, when necessary, provided that notice of the proposed action sets forth the proposed action, provides the opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of the proposal, and a reasonable time in which to return the ballot is allowed. Notice, quorum and other requirements for the conduct of meetings shall apply. Ballots shall be filed with a report of the action and shall be a part of the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 11. **Rights of Inspection.** Every Director shall have absolute rights at a reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the corporation.

## **ARTICLE VI COMMITTEES**

Section 1. **Appointment of Committees.** The Board, by a majority vote of the Officers and Directors in office, may create one (1) or more committees, each consisting of two (2) or more voting members and their alternates.

Section 2. **Powers.** The Board may delegate to such committees any of the authority of the Board except with respect to:

- a. The approval of any action for which the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law also requires approval of the Members or approval of a majority of all Members;
- b. The filling of vacancies on the Board or on any committee, which has the authority to act on behalf of the Board;
- c. The fixing of compensation of the Directors for serving on the Board or on any committee;
- d. The amendment or repeal of Bylaws or the adoption of new Bylaws;
- e. The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board, which by its express terms is not so amendable or cannot be repealed;

- f. The appointment of other Board committees or the Members thereof;
- g. The expenditure of LWVEA funds.
- h. The approval of any self-dealing transaction, as such transactions are defined in Section 5233(a) of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

Section 3. **Minutes.** Minutes shall be kept of each meeting of each Board Committee and submitted to the Board of Directors at the next Board meeting.

#### Section 4. **Executive Committee**

- a. **Composition and Quorum.** The Board may appoint an Executive Committee composed of the elected Officers of the Board and the Immediate Past President as enumerated in Article IV, Section 1. A majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum.
- b. **Duties.** The Executive Committee shall make decisions that require action between meetings of the Board of Directors and perform other duties as necessary. The proceedings of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting for ratification and be included in the minutes of the Board.

Section 5. **Reimbursements.** Directors and Committee Members may receive reimbursement for expenses as may be fixed or determined by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VII FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION**

Section 1. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVEA shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2. **Dues.** Annual Dues shall be determined by the Board and approved by the LWVEA Members at their Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the LWVEA members present and voting. Dues shall be payable by each member annually. Members will be invoiced prior to July 1. Any Member who fails to pay dues by December 31, may be dropped from the membership rolls. Life members shall be exempt from payment of dues. New Members paying dues after January 1, shall be considered to be current members in good standing but their dues shall be applied to the next year.

#### Section 3. **Annual Budget Committee**

- a. **Composition.** The Budget Committee shall be composed of the Treasurer and at least two (2) members nominated by the President and appointed by the Board. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as Chair.

b. Duties. The Budget Committee shall prepare an annual budget for the LWVEA and shall submit it to the Board for input and approval at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 4. **Budget.** At its Annual Meeting, the Board shall submit to the membership for adoption by majority vote, a balanced budget for the ensuing year that shall provide for the support of LWVEA. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each member at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. **Annual Financial Review.** The Annual Financial Review, arranged by the President in Article IV, Section 5, shall be conducted following the close of the Fiscal Year. The Financial Review results shall be reported to the Board for their action no later than ninety (90) days following the end of the Fiscal Year.

Section 6. **Fiscal Report** The Board shall send Members an annual financial report not later than one hundred and twenty (120) days following the close of the Fiscal Year. The report shall contain the following information.

a. The assets and liabilities, including the trust funds, of the LWVEA as of the end of the Fiscal Year.

b. The principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the Fiscal Year.

c. The revenue or receipts of the LWVEA, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for the Fiscal Year.

d. The expenses or disbursements of the League, for both general and restricted purposes, during the Fiscal Year.

e. A copy of any report of independent accountants, or, if there is no such report, the certificate of an authorized officer of the LWVEA that such statements were prepared without audit from the books and records of the LWVEA.

Section 7. **Report on Transactions with Interested Persons.**

a. Within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the end of the LWVEA's Fiscal Year, the Board shall send to the LWVEA Members a report as defined in the relevant section of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation law, of any transaction in which the LWVEA was a party and in which any Officer or Director of the League had a direct or indirect material financial interest.

b. The report shall briefly describe:

(1) Any covered transaction during the previous fiscal year involving more than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), or which was one of a number of covered transactions in which the same interested person had a direct or indirect material Financial interest, and which transactions in the aggregate involved more than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000).

(2) The names of the interested persons involved in such transactions, stating such person's relationship to the LWVEA, the nature of such person's interest in the transaction, and, where practicable, the amount of such interest: provided, that in the case of a transaction with a partnership

of which such person is a partner, only the interest of the partnership need be stated.

- c. No such report need be sent if no transactions of the type occurred during the Fiscal Year.

**Section 8. Indemnification.** The League is empowered to indemnify its Officers, Directors and agents to the extent provided, and within the limitations imposed, by the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

**Section 9. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution.** In the event of dissolution of LWVEA for any cause, all money and securities that may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of LWVEA shall be paid to LWVC. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWVEA, shall be disposed of by any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization or corporation, for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VIII OTHER PROVISIONS**

**Section 1. Endorsement of Documents; Contracts.** Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any note, mortgage, evidence of indebtedness, contract, conveyance or other instrument in writing and any assignment or endorsement thereof executed or entered into between the LWVEA and any other person, when signed by the President and any other of the LWVEA shall be valid and binding on the LWVEA in the absence of actual knowledge on the part of the other person that the signing Officers had no authority to execute the same. Any such instruments may be signed by any other person or persons and in such manner as from time to time shall be determined by the Board, and, unless so authorized by the Board, no officer, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the LWVEA by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or amount.

**Section 2. Representation of Shares of Other Corporations.** The President or any other Officer or Officers authorized by the Board or the President are each authorized to vote, represent and exercise on behalf of the LWVEA all rights incident to any and all shares of any other corporation or corporations standing in the name of the LWVEA. The authority herein granted may be exercised either by any such officer in person or by any other person authorized so to do by proxy or power of attorney duly executed by said Officer.

**Section 3. Construction and Definitions.** Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction and definitions contained in the General Provisions of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and in the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

**ARTICLE IX**  
**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND VOTING RIGHTS**

Section 1. **Membership Meetings.** There shall be at least three (3) General Meetings of the LWVEA Members each year, one of which shall be the Annual Meeting. Time and place shall be determined by the Board.

Section 2. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting of LWVEA Members shall be held between May 1 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the Board. At the Annual Meeting the LWVEA Members shall:

- a. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year;
- b. Elect Directors, Officers, and LWVEA Members to serve on the Nominating Committee;
- c. Adopt a balanced budget; and
- d. Transact such other business as may properly come before it; however, if less than one-third (1/3) of the voting membership is present, action may be taken only on business contained in the Annual Meeting Kit.

Section 3. **Voting.** Each Voting Member shall be entitled to one vote only at any meeting of LWVEA Members. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. All elections for Directors must be by ballot upon the written demand made by a Member at the Annual Meeting and before the voting begins. In the election of the Directors, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes of those Members voting are elected.

Section 4. **Quorum.** A quorum for the Annual Meeting of LWVEA members and for any meeting in which Members are entitled to vote shall consist of ten (10) percent of the voting Members.

Section 5. **Notice of Annual Meeting.**

a. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to each LWVEA Member not less than thirty (30) days nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of the Annual Meeting by first class mail or email. Such notice shall state the place, date, and hour of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted.

b. The notice shall also include the names of those who are nominees for Officers and Directors and names of current Nominating Committee Members and proposed Nominating Committee Members at the time the notice is sent.

c. All notices required by law or these Bylaws may be given by any one of the following methods as determined by the Board:

- (1) By using first class mail, such notice enclosed in stamped envelope addressed to the last known address of the LWVEA Member as shown by the records of the LWVEA; or

(2). By publishing such notice in the newsletter which is the official publication of the LWVEA and by mailing or emailing a copy to those having email to such LWVEA member; or

(3). By any other method provided by these Bylaws or determined by the Board in accordance with the applicable law.

**Section 6. Special Meetings.** The Board or the President may call Special Meetings of Members, and five (5%) percent or more of the members may call a Special Meeting to remove directors and to elect their replacement.

**Section 7. Record Date.** The Board may fix, in advance, a record date for the determination of the Members entitled to notice of any Annual Meeting or entitled to exercise any rights in respect of any lawful action. The record date so fixed shall not be more than sixty (60) days nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting, nor more than sixty (60) days prior to any other action. When a record date is so fixed, only LWVEA Members of record on that date are entitled to notice, to vote, or to exercise the rights for which the record date was fixed. If no record date is fixed by the Board, the record date shall be thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

**Section 8. Inspection of Corporate Records.** Subject to Sections 6330, 6331, and 6332 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, LWVEA Members may do either or both of the following for a purpose reasonably related to such interest as an LWVEA member:

a. Inspect and copy the record of all the names, addresses, and voting rights of LWVEA Members at reasonable times, upon five (5) business days prior written demand upon LWVEA, which demand shall state the purpose for which the inspection rights are requested; or

b. Obtain from the Secretary, upon written demand and tender of actual charges, a list of the names, addresses, and voting rights of those Members entitled to vote for the election of Directors, as of the most recent record date for which it has been compiled or as of a date specified by the Member subsequent to the date of demand. The demand shall state the purpose for which the list is requested. The Secretary shall make the list available on or before the later of ten (10) business days after the demand is received or after the date specified therein as the date as of which the list is to be compiled.

The LWVEA may, within ten (10) business days after receiving a demand, as set forth above in subparagraph a. or b. of this Section, deliver to the person(s) making the demand a written offer of an alternative method of achieving the purpose identified in said demand without providing access to or a copy of the list. Any rejection of the LWVEA's offer shall be in writing and shall indicate the reasons the alternative proposed by the LWVEA does not meet the purpose of the demand made pursuant to subparagraph a. or b. of this Section.

The accounting books and records and minutes of proceedings of the LWVEA Members and the Board and Committees of the Board shall be open to

inspection upon written demand of any Member at any reasonable time for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interests as a Member.

Section 9. **Inspection of Articles and Bylaws.** LWVEA shall keep in its principal office in the State of California, or in the office of the President or Secretary, the original or a copy of its Articles and of these Bylaws as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by LWVEA Members, at all reasonable times.

## **ARTICLE X NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

### **Section 1. Nominating Committee**

- a. The Nominating Committee shall consist of three (3) Voting Members, one (1) of whom shall be a Director and two (2) Members who shall not be members of the Board, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The current Nominating Committee shall make nominations for these Offices. Further nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.
- b. Nominating Committee Members shall hold office for a term of one (1) year or until successors are elected and qualified. The Board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the Nominating Committee.
- c. The President of LWVEA shall send the name and contact information of the Nominating Committee Chair to the Members. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Committee to solicit suggestions from Members for nominations for each vacant position.

Section 2. **Suggestions by Members.** Any Member may send suggestions to the Nominating Committee.

Section 3. **Report of the Nominating Committee and Nominations from the Floor.** The report of the Nominating Committee of the nominations for Officers, Directors and the two (2) Members of the succeeding Nominating Committee shall be sent to the Members thirty (30) days before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Committee shall be presented to the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report. Members may make nominations from the floor, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 4. **Election.** The President shall appoint an Election Committee at the Annual Meeting if there is more than one person nominated for a position on the Board. The Election Committee shall be in charge of the election which shall be by written ballot. If there is but one (1) nominee for each office the election shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those Members present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

## **ARTICLE XI PROGRAM**

Section 1. **Principles.** The governmental principles as adopted by the LWVUS Convention, and supported by LWVEA as a whole, constitute the authorization for the adoption of Program.

Section 2. **Program.** The program of LWVEA shall consist of:

- a. action to implement the Principles; and
- b. those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3. **Discussion Meetings.** There shall be opportunities throughout the year for Members to discuss program, develop consensus, and receive information about LWVEA activities. Time and place of these meetings shall be determined by the Board.

Section 4. **Adoption of the Program.** The program is adopted according to the following procedures:

- a. Voting Members may make recommendations to the Board at least two (2) months before the Annual Meeting.
- b. The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program that, together with a list of non-recommended items, shall be sent to the Members at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority vote of Voting Members present and voting shall be required for the adoption of the Program recommended by the Board.
- d. Any suggestion for the Program submitted to the Board, but not recommended by the Board, may be adopted by the Annual Meeting, provided consideration is approved by a majority vote and the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths (3/5) vote.
- e. Changes in Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to Members at least fourteen (14) days prior to General Meeting at which the changes are discussed and acted upon.

Section 5. **Member Action.** A member may act in the name of LWVEA only when authorized to do so by the appropriate Board of Directors and only in conformity with, and not contrary to, positions of LWVEA, LWVUS, LWVC, LWVBA, and LWV-ACC.

## **ARTICLE XII CONVENTIONS AND COUNCILS**

Section 1. **LWVUS Convention.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the

names of delegates must be sent to LWVUS, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted LWVEA under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. **LWVC Convention.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWVC, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWVEA under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVC.

Section 3. **LWVC Council.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the Presidents must be sent to LWVC, shall name the President and/or the alternate to that Council, under the provisions of the LWVC Bylaws.

Section 4. **LWVBA Convention.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWVBA, shall select delegates to the Convention in the number allotted to the LWVEA under the provisions of the LWVBA Bylaws.

Section 5. **LWVBA Council.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the presidents must be sent to the LWVBA, shall name the President or the alternate to that Council, under the provisions of the LWVBA Bylaws.

Section 6. **LWV-ACC.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the name of the President must be sent to the LWV-ACC, shall name the President or an alternate who shall represent LWVEA at LWV-ACC.

### **ARTICLE XIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

Section 1. **Parliamentary Authority.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, current edition, shall govern the LWVEA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

### **ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS**

Section 1. **Proposed Amendments.** Any Voting Member may submit amendments to these Bylaws to the Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting. All proposed amendments together with the recommendations of the Board shall be sent to the membership at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting. The failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate the amendments to the Bylaws.

Section 2. **Adoption.** These Bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Voting Members present and voting.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** These Bylaws shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED: April 1957

Amended May 1989

Amended May 1993

Amended May 2002

Amended June 2003

Amended June 2007

Amended June 2009