

Discussion Guide for Neighbor to Neighbor Program for November 3, 2020 General Election

Introduction:

The purpose of the League's Neighbor to Neighbor program is for voters to be informed about the issues on the ballot. Ask if everyone has his or her sample ballot. Go over key election dates and information

- Election Day is November 3. The deadline to register to vote for this election is October 19.
- Does anyone need to register to vote for this election? Tell participants they can register online at www.registertovote.com.
- **New for this election:** All voters will receive a ballot in the mail. *There will be no neighborhood polling places.* Instead, the Alameda County Registrar will open accessible voting sites in the County starting on the Saturday before Election Day and 66 ballot drop boxes at various sites in the County.
- **It's best to return your ballot by mail** – give it to your postal carrier or put it in a mailbox, or take it to the post office. Your ballot must be postmarked on or before Nov. 3 for it to be counted. Postage is free.
- **Voting tips**
Before you return your ballot, make sure you sign your **own** ballot envelope in your **own** handwriting. If your signature has changed, re-register to vote with your new signature.
- If you have applied to vote by mail, but decide to vote at one of the accessible voting sites, you **must** turn in the ballot you received in the mail. If you lose or didn't get your ballot, you can call the Registrar to get another if there is time, or you can go to the Registrar's office or an accessible voting site and vote provisionally.

Discuss state, county, regional and local measures on the ballot

Start with the State propositions, followed by regional, county and city. For each proposition get the discussion going by asking some of the following questions (from **How to Evaluate Ballot Propositions** from the **Easy Voter Guide**)

- Is the measure written clearly? Do you understand it?
- What are the goals of the measure? Do you agree with those goals?
- Is the measure consistent with your ideas about government?
- How will the measure be funded – sales tax? property tax? bonds? How will that impact you?
- Does the measure mandate a government program but doesn't address the funding for it?
- Can the issue be easily decided with a yes or no vote or is it something for the legislature to examine?
- Who are the sponsors/supporters and who are the opponents of the measure? What interests do they represent? Where is the money coming from to promote/oppose it? See votersedge.org/ca.
- Report the League position on each Proposition. Ask for feedback.

Discuss voting

- Ask if neighbors have a plan to vote. When will they mail their VBM ballots?
- Ask if anyone has questions about how to mark the ballot or the election in general.
- What is a *provisional /conditional* ballot? (This is a regular ballot that you put inside a *provisional/conditional* envelope. If you're not registered, it allows you to register and vote on Election Day.) The Registrar verifies your registration or registers you and counts your ballot.

Ask neighbors to spread the word to other neighbors about the importance of registering and voting in the election. Offer membership forms to people who want to join the League. 6.23.20