

Discussion Guide for Neighbor to Neighbor Program for March 3, 2020 Primary Election

Introduction:

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

- Election Day is March 3. The deadline to register to vote for this election is 2/18.
- Does anyone need to register to vote for this election? Offer voter registration forms or tell participants they can register on line at www.registertovote.com
- The first day of voting is Feb 3.
- The polling place for your neighborhood is on the back of your sample ballot.
- Does anyone plan to vote by mail? If you're a permanent mail voter, your ballot will come around 29 days before the election. If not, you can apply for one by using the application on your Sample Ballot.
- Before you return your ballot, make sure you sign your **own** ballot envelope in your **own** handwriting. If you mail your ballot, it must be postmarked by Election Day. Postage is free. You can also turn it in at any polling place in **Alameda County** by 8:00 p.m. on Election Day.
- If you have applied to vote by mail, but decide to vote at the polls, 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 it is there is time, or you can go to the polls 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 – do they plan to vote by mail or at the polls? When will they mail their VBM ballots/go to the polls?
- Ask if anyone has questions about how to mark the ballot. What happens when you walk into the polling place? What if your name is not on the Roster?
- 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 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 applications to anyone who is interested in joining the League.