



2017

Annual Meeting Kit

CALL TO ANNUAL MEETING

All members of the League of Women Voters of Alameda are invited to the Annual Meeting to approve a budget, issues of emphasis for action, and to elect a new Board.

Saturday, June 24, 2017 – 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM

Otaez Mexican Restaurant, 1619 Webster Street, Alameda

LUNCH RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY MONDAY JUNE 19 (See reservation form on back page.)

You may attend the meeting, which begins at 12:45 pm, without attending the lunch.

AGENDA

12:00 p.m. Speaker – Nancy O’Malley, Alameda County District Attorney

12:45 p.m. Call to Order

Credentials Report – Doris Gee	Page
Introduction of Parliamentarian – Donna Vaughn	
Adoption - Order of Business and Rules of the Meeting	2
Approval- Minutes of Annual Meeting of June 25, 2016	3-4
Appoint Committee to Review 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes	
Introductions of Guests & Former LWVA Presidents	
State of the League – Alice Fried, President	
Treasurer’s Report – Marian Breitbart	5
Presentation of 2017-2018 Budget – Adina Singer	6-7
Board Recommended Local Positions Revisions (none)	13
Board Recommended County Positions Revisions (none)	15
Debate and Adoption of Budget	
Nominating Committee Report – Dorie Guess Behrstock	17
Election of 2017-2018 Board and Officers	
Looking Forward: Issues of Emphasis and Call for Committee Volunteers	
Directions from Members to the New Board and Committees	
Announcements	

2:00 pm. Adjourn

Please Bring this Kit with You to the Annual Meeting!



RULES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

1. QUORUM

The meeting shall not begin until a quorum is present. In accordance with Article IX, Section 4 of the By-Laws, twenty members shall constitute a quorum.

2. ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with Article IX, Section 6 of the By-Laws, the Board has set the record date for establishment of notice and voting rights to the 2017 Annual Meeting as May 24, 2017. Members who are current in payment of dues as of that date are eligible to receive notice and vote at the Annual Meeting. Article IX, Section 3 prohibits absentee and proxy voting.

3. WRITTEN MOTIONS

Main motions and substantive amendments shall be given to the secretary in writing, with the name of the maker of the motion included. Forms will be provided.

4. DEBATE TIME

There shall be two minutes per member for debate. Members and guests who are not eligible to vote on motions may not speak to them during debate. No one may speak for a second time on a given item until others wishing to speak have had their turns. Each speaker shall address all remarks to the Chair and shall limit such remarks to the item being considered. There shall be no interruption of the speaker while the presentation is being given. The moderator of the Meeting shall have the authority to announce the total time dedicated to debate on a given matter when there are many wishing to speak. Time will be allowed at the end of the meeting, as is our custom, for "Directions to the Board", following which guests may add brief comments.

5. PROGRAM ADOPTION (Referring to New and Ongoing Studies, Position Updates or Position Review for Adoption of Concurrence with another League's Position)

- a. Each recommended program item shall be moved and seconded, but there will be no vote on any item until all items (recommended and non-recommended) have been discussed. A majority vote is needed to adopt a recommended item.
- b. Any non-recommended program item may be moved for consideration by a majority vote of members present and voting. A two-thirds vote in favor is needed to adopt a non-recommended item. Non-recommended studies require a prepared scope, budget, and name of proposed chair.
- c. The vote will be taken on recommended items (with possible amendments) in the order moved, followed by the vote on non-recommended items. Amendments may be deletions from, but not additions to, program positions.

6. NOMINATIONS

Additional nominations for Officers, Directors, and the Nominating Committee may be made from the floor, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured in writing in advance of the meeting.

7. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Must be related to existing positions, whether local, state or national, and are not considered to be the same as Program. An action item may be adopted by a simple majority of those voting. Debate of Board recommended action items is limited to ten minutes and will be moderated by the Presider.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA
MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 25, 2016**

Guest speaker: Joi Lin Blake, President College of Alameda spoke on Committing to Community.

Call to Order: LWVA co-president Anne Spanier called the meeting to order.

Credentials Report: Ruth Dixon-Mueller reported there were 42 voting members present, meeting the quorum requirement of 21 voting members

Parliamentarian: Donna Vaughn was introduced as the parliamentarian. *A motion was made seconded and unanimously carried to adopt the Order of Business and Rules of the meeting.*

Approval of Minutes: *A motion was made seconded and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting.* Juelle Ann Boyer, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, and Felice Zensius were appointed to review the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes.

Introduction of former LWVA Presidents: Kate Quick introduced herself and other past presidents in attendance including Donna Vaughn, Felice Zensius and Lena Tam

Statement of the League: Co-President Anne Spanier read the Statement of the League defining the work the LWV is committed to performing. The statement was presented and approved at the recent National Convention, Co-Presidents Alice Fried and Anne Spanier were in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: Marian Breitbart presented the report as presented in the Annual Meeting Kit. There were no questions and the report was placed on file for audit.

Budget Report: Budget Chair Ted Frey reported the LWVA is budgeted to have a deficit in 2016/17, however, it should be noted the budget, as in past years, is highly conservative. As an example, he pointed out a deficit was presented for 2015/16 and we appear to have a positive income for the current year. Once again, MYPO exceeded budgeted income, thanks to the tight organization of Deborah Wright and her team. However, the budget has reflected a conservative outcome for 2016/17.

Local Positions: Ruth Dixon-Mueller directed members to page 16 and 17 in the annual membership kit to review the changes to LWVA local positions as directed by members at the last annual meeting. The updated positions, prepared by Kate Quick and Juelle Anne Boyer and approved by the board, were presented on page 14-15 in the annual membership kit. Karen Butter advised members that any major position changes would require a new study, that these changes are clerical and clarity in nature. Karen Butter raised a question regarding County positions as there were none presented in the annual kit. Kate Quick noted, though the LWVA usually does vote on County positions, there were no changes in position therefore last year's vote would suffice. A concern was raised about the Disaster Preparedness position, whether so much had been eliminated that the end result was too general. It was noted that the change allows LWVA to be more flexible in our position as more Federal, State and City plans are developed. A discussion regarding removal of the Port of Oakland position ensued. After lengthy discussion it was determined not to remove the position as recommended in the kit to allow additional review due to recent changes in the Oakland Port management. *A motion was made seconded and carried with one nay to resubmit the Oakland Port Position to the proposed local positions. A motion was made seconded and unanimously carried to adopt the updated positions as amended.*

Approval of Budget: *A motion was made seconded and unanimously carried to approve the 2016/17 Budget as presented.*



Nominating Committee: Chair Karen Scanlon nominated and moved the slate of officers and board members presented in the annual membership kit. There were no nominations from the floor. *A motion was made seconded and unanimously carried to elect the slate as presented.*

Officers Elected at the Annual Meeting

President	Alice Fried
Administration Vice President	Ruth Dixon-Mueller
Program Vice President	Patricia Young
Membership Vice President	Doris Gee
Secretary	Cynthia Silva
Treasurer	Marian Breitbart

Additional Board members elected at the Annual Meeting

Communications	Georgia Gates Derr
Action co-chairs	Karen Butter, Felice Zensius
Voter Service	Dorothy Kerwin
Voter’s Edge	Juelle-Ann Boyer
Voter Editor	Mari Clark
e-Mail Manager	Keasha Martindill
Web Master	Lisa Yap

Nominating Committee for 2017 elected at the Annual Meeting (two board members to be appointed by the board)

- Dorie Guess Behrstock
- Kathryn Sáenz Duke
- Anne McKereghan

Request for Committee Participants Directions to the New Board and Committees: Newly elected President Alice Fried spoke to membership about how the LWVA is addressing many directives from LWV on community engagement. She challenged each member to take on one new commitment on behalf of LWVA to help encourage an active and educated constituency.

The floor was then opened for directions to the Board. Kate Quick recommended we request the LWVBA look into the position on the Port of Oakland and see what parts of their positions the local chapters should speak to the changes at the Port including addressing the new policy of shipping coal or through the Oakland Port. Improve informing our membership and voters in the national level, particularly environmental, for instance, the current discussion on national parks.

Improve LWVA interaction with other local organizations, possible presentations. It was also recommended the LWVA establish President’s Round Table.

Consider how we can add to the understanding of the Bill of Rights and the Second Amendment.

Announcements: [Are not reprinted here].

Adjournment 2:23

Respectfully submitted by Anne McKereghan, Recording Secretary

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: STATE OF THE LEAGUE

For many years now, the major goal of this League has been to improve its visibility in the community. It has done exceedingly well this last year. We have grown our membership so that today we have over 165 members, and have improved our financial position as well. We have also augmented the quality and diversity of our programs. From our traditional pros and cons and candidates forums (five in fall 2016!), we have added youth outreach in voting and a high-school civics scholarship program speech tournament in partnership with the College of Alameda. Among other events we have presented expert panels and dialogues on American



Muslims, The Popular Vote v. Electoral College, and Affordable Housing as well as participating with signs and banners in the Oakland Women’s March.

Meeting and engaging new members is what brings vibrancy, new ideas and relevance to a League. This year our membership has focused on engagement of new members. As a result, our events are increasingly well attended and our visibility enhanced. A look at the Calendar of Events on our website attests to our engagement in the community.

This growth would not be possible without a strong communications infrastructure. Our communications committee has become the pillar of our League. They have taken a series of tasks and molded them into a unit consisting of publicity, the monthly Voter, twice-monthly e-Blast messages and social media. In addition, they have created a new, user-friendly website that has brought the LWVA into the 21st century and gives our community the facts and truths that strengthen the notion of an informed electorate and encourages political engagement.

LWVA also plays a role in the state and national organizations. The State League is conducting its biennial convention in Sacramento in June of this year. The work of the convention will be to tackle the issues surrounding Money in Politics; Climate Change; Sustainable Water, and Protecting the Environment; Election Reform and Voting Rights. In addition, the state and national leagues are set to work with us on what has been labeled Impact, Engagement, Sustainability: The Future Framework of the League, or how to prepare the organization for the next 100 years. Strong leagues like ours, and the programs we promote to educate and advocate, are necessary if the League’s mission of Making Democracy Work for all is realized. Please join us in this mission.

Alice Fried, President, LWVA

Treasurer’s Report, First Nine Months 2016-2017

CHECKING ACCOUNT- BANK OF MARIN

Balance Sheet Calculation

Beginning Cash 7/1/2016	\$ 21,441.21
Receipts 7/1/2016-3/31-2017	\$ 18,523.53
Expenditures 7/1/2016-3/31/2017	\$ (10,921.75)
Cash on Hand 3/31/2017	\$ 29,042.99
Less: Reserve for Youth Debate Scholarship*	(738.37)
General Fund Balance 3/31/17	\$ 28,234.96

Operating Statement

Receipts	\$ 18,523.53
Expenditures*	\$(10,921.75)
Gain/(loss) from Operations	\$ 7,601.78

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT \$ 10,089.42

* The Board voted to spend up to \$900 in LWVA general funds to support this program in 2017, on a one-time basis.

Marian Breitbart, Treasurer

**Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2017-2018
(excludes Youth Outreach scholarship program)**

	FY2016-17	FY2016-17	FY2017-2018
_Income	Budget	Estimate	Proposed
1. Dues	7,000	7,602	8,510
2 Contributions	1,500	1,500	1,000
3. MYPO In Kind Donations	0	0	0
4. MYPO	5,500	5,500	5,500
5. Other Fundraising	0	263	0
6. Projects (Affidavits, recycling, Escript)	300	300	300
7. Annual Meeting	0	0	0
Subtotal Operating Income	14,300	\$15,165	\$15,310
8. Refunds	0	0	0
TOTAL INCOME	14,300	15,165	15,310
_Expenses			
A. OPERATING COSTS			
1.PO Box Rental/permit	102	106	106
2. State Fees (AG/SOS)	40	40	40
3. Insurance	280	-339	100
5. Easy Web Maintenance*	160	404	400
6, Dues Rebate	0	0	0
SUBTOTAL	\$582	\$211	\$646
B. BOARD AND ADMINISTRATION			
1. Officer Expenses	50	50	50
2. Board Tools	50	50	25
3. Membership brochures, renewal kit, new member kit)	350	350	350
4. Membership renewal Postage	90	90	90
5. Administration/Communication/Membership	150	150	215
6. Retreat	100	100	100
SUBTOTAL	790	790	830
C. CONVENTION/ANNUAL MEETING			
1. National/state/Convention/Council**	2,350	2,701	4,300
2. Annual Meeting (net)	100	139	100
SUBTOTAL	2,450	2,841	4,400
D. PER MEMBER PAYMENTS (PMPs)***			
1. County Council	0	0	0
2. LWV Bay Area @\$1.50/member/family	120	120	150
3. LWVC @\$28/\$14 per member/family member	2,270	2,270	3,150
4. LWVUS @\$32/\$16 per member/family member-16/17	2,912	2,912	3,600
SUBTOTAL	5,302	5,302	6,900



E. PRINTING & SUPPLIES			
1. Voter Printing	158	158	79
2. Voter Postage	91	0	5
3. Other Printing (Annual Kit, Directory)	500	543	500
4. Other Postage	60	60	60
SUBTOTAL	809	761	644
F. EDUCATION			
1. Publications/Position support	0	0	50
2. League State/National Program Study	0	0	50
3. Voter Services Rental-	405	405	300
4. Voter Service Publicity	300	300	318
5. Voter Service Printing	200	621	200
6. Program Forums-Rental (assumes 6 forums)	675	675	1,440
7. Program Forums-Misc/food/handouts	350	350	350
8. Program Publicity	909	909	1,074
9. Smart Voter/Voter's Edge Contribution	500	500	500
10. Know Your Rep Printing and Smart Voter	88	88	88
11. Easy Voter Guide	600	639	0
12. Hot topics rental/handouts-FOR DISCUSSION-6 meetings	200	200	0
13. Videography		0	0
SUBTOTAL	4,227	4,686	4,370
G. SPECIAL FUNCTIONS			
1. MYPO expenses	1,000	1,000	1,000
2. Chamber Dues	125	125	125
3. One Time Expenses	400	400	0
SUBTOTAL	1,525	1,525	1,125
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	15,685	16,115	18,915
OPERATING INCOME/(LOSS)	-1,385	-950	-3,605
1. Interest Income	0	0	0
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	-1,385	-950	-3,605

* \$25 mo. Weebly fee; \$80 annual prepaid calendar upgrade; \$20 annual domain registration

**Assumes 3 members to DC conference June 2018, 2 rooms @ \$250 night for 2 nights, \$750 travel & \$350 registration each.

*** PMPs based on ~100 primary and ~ 25 secondary (family) members

Adina Singer, Budget Chair



LWVA COMMITTEE REPORTS 2016-2017

Action Committee

Election Information: For the November 2016 election the Action Committee organized the writing of Pros and Cons for the 4 local measures ballot and analyzed the measures to see whether the LWVA should take a position. The LWVA supported two local measures, both of which were approved by the voters.

State Legislation: The Action Committee is working in two major areas. First, we are following the state legislative priorities developed by the LWV California. We are following two bills currently and another that will be introduced shortly. SB 562, titled "Californians for a Healthy California" is intended to enact a comprehensive universal single payer health care coverage program and a health care cost control system. A coalition of organizations, including the LWVC, will sponsor a large campaign to educate voters about the legislation. SCA 3 is a constitutional amendment to allow California communities to issue local bonds for library construction/renovation with a 55% threshold instead of the current 66 2/3 requirement. School districts currently have the 55% threshold for school construction. A bill that has yet to be introduced is a reform of Proposition 13. The "Make It Fair" State Constitutional Amendment would change how businesses are taxed resulting in \$9 Billion for local governments and schools.

Money in Politics: Locally, we are working on the broad LWVUS theme - Money in Politics. As a first step we are looking at campaign expenditures by compiling candidate financial reports from the past few elections. We expect to report on our analysis in 2017/18. The current reporting system is very cumbersome to use and we are supporting the City Clerk's plans to install a new public system for the FPPC mandated campaign disclosure filings. Several cities in California are using the proposed system.

We will continue to work for increased transparency in our local government. Monitoring of our Open Government Commission and the enabling Sunshine Ordinance is a necessary and ongoing task of the Action Committee.

Women's March: The Action Committee Co-Chairs assisted in organizing the LWVA participation in the Women's March in Oakland on January 21, 2017. More than 25 LWVA members marched joined by members from other local leagues.

Felice Zensius and Karen Butter, Action Co-Chairs

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee continued to expand its efforts to effectively convey the work of the League. Our "team" generates and manages publicity through multiple media channels: website, newsletter, eBlasts, news releases to print and on-line news sources and social media. Highlights of this program year include:

- Launched a new, easy-to-navigate LWVA website with an appealing "fresh" look. The new web-hosting service (*Weebly*) provides analytics, flexible programming and customization; annual expense \$400. Many thanks to Web Manager Lisa Yap for her fabulous work.
- Issued twice monthly eBlasts to 400+ members and friends of the League. Subscribers and other Leagues continue to praise the look of the eBlasts and the quality of its contents. Over 34% of recipients (including non-members) read our eBlasts, well above the industry standard of 22% for nonprofits. Kudos to eBlast Manager Keasha Martindill for her exceptional talent, leadership and organizational skills.
- Published six issues of the VOTER newsletter: July-Aug, Sep-Oct, Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, March-April, and May-June. Credit and thanks to Voter Editor Mari Clark and Ruth Dixon-Mueller.



- Initiated training for members of the Communications Committee and LWVA leaders to use social media and file sharing applications. Heartfelt appreciation to League member Patty Young for sharing her professional expertise and leading two excellent workshops.
- Established a *Facebook Administrative Team* to increase LWVA visibility and community interest. Appreciation to Gayle Thomas and her newly recruited members Kate Quick and Anne McKereghan.

The Communication Committee's goals for 2017-2018 are to:

- Strategically, tactically, and consistently use social media to
 - Promote community participation in LWVA sponsored events, and
 - Inform local voters, and engage them in meaningful, respectful dialogue about laws and policies that affect them.
- Keep the new LWVA website easy to navigate, and updated with our organization's latest activities and legislative efforts.
- Create and maintain collaborative relationships with other local organizations by sharing their events (which align with LWV positions) to our social media and email subscribers, and web site visitors.

Your Communications Team during the past year includes Keasha Martindill (eBlasts), Lisa Yap (Website), Mari Clark (Voter), Marti Burchell (flyers), Katie Cameron (writer), Maria Dominguez (Twitter), Gayle Thomas (social media/Facebook), with valuable input from many others.

If you are not receiving twice-monthly eBlasts from LWVA including a link to our local newsletter, The Voter, please let us know! Spread the word about what we're doing on Facebook and Twitter! Volunteer to write letters to the editor, take photos at League events or submit items to us to distribute. We depend on you!

Georgia Gates Derr, Communications Chair

Fundraising Committee

Thanks to a very dedicated MYPO Committee and the support of LWVA's members, more than 160 people attended the April 30, 2017 Meet Your Public Officials mixer and fundraiser. More than 30 of our elected and appointed officials attended and mingled with the crowds, including 12 who participated in the speed dating.

Thank you to POs who held five-minute one-on-one conversations ("speed dates") with attendees: Trish Herrera Spencer, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Paul Roller, Jennifer Williams, Jeff Cambra, Robert Raburn, Malia Vella, Tracy Jensen, Jim Oddie, Jill Keimach, Jennifer Ott and Sean McPhetridge.

The committee had a very thorough de-briefing of the event to make any needed changes for an even more successful event next year.

MYPO 2017 grossed \$7,700 and netted \$6,700, thanks to donations of auction and raffle items and wine for the bar. Ticket sales accounted for about half of the gross with the balance from the other sources.

Thank you to this very dedicated MYPO committee: Alice, Marian, Deborah, Doris, Keasha, Shubha and a big thank you to Ruth for keeping us on track! Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets for the event; who contributed food and wine; who donated raffle and auction items and worked so hard the night of the event. Truly a group effort and much appreciated.

We currently don't have another fundraiser planned, but will always look for ways to support the League's voter education and advocacy activities.

Linda Asbury, Fundraising Chair



Membership Committee

We started our year with 130 members and as of May, we are up to 167 members! All Leagues report a rise in membership since the November election and people want to be engaged.

Looking back at the older membership reports, in 2010 we had 104 members and the birth of social media was just beginning as we held our first Social Network workshop.

We are trying to grow and reach new members via social media. This is to include a newly designed website where you can sign up and pay online www.LWVAlameda.org. We also have a Facebook page: League of Women Voters of Alameda. Please “like” us and check back often for the latest events happening. We have a new updated membership brochure. We have started once a month coffee hours on Saturday mornings. Check on Facebook or our website for the various locations around Alameda where we meet prospective and regular members for coffee. Two successful prospective membership teas were held with many new members joining. Several joined at our March MYPO as winners of a membership raffle.

The Membership Committee distributes event flyers and membership brochures around town; contacts each new member that joins inviting them for coffee to discuss the LWVA’s activities and volunteer opportunities and encourages the active participation of all of our members in the education and advocacy work of the League. We also send out mailings that require printing, collating, sorting, stuffing and stamping. If you can spare two hours, come join us.

We try to match volunteers’ interests with our committees. If you are willing to share your skills and time with us even on an occasional basis, please let us know. Visit www.LWVAlameda.org/volunteer.html to learn about the opportunities we offer. Every committee is listed here.

In spite of all the wonderful social media and technology, nothing beats the good old fashion connections that our new members need when joining a large new group such as ours. So if you sit next to someone you do not recognize, please introduce yourselves and welcome them.

A big thank you to Ruth Dixon Mueller for mentorship, Shubha Fanse, Marian Brietbart for keeping national registry and finances straight. Our committee of Audrey Lord-Hausman, Linda Garvin and Anne Spanier works hard to grow our membership and increase visibility in the Alameda community.

The membership committee meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9am. Would you like to visit us? Email dorisgee48@gmail.com.

Doris L. Gee, Membership Chair

Program Committee

Our Program year was successful yet short. The Board decided not to hold topical forums during Fall 2016 in order to focus on five forums for the election season. In Winter-Spring 2017 we held four community forums (see below) with all but one in collaboration with other organizations.

A big thank you to other Board members, whose expertise was invaluable for putting together programs that were engaging and diverse. Thank you also to our Communications Committee and other volunteers who devoted their time and energy in promoting and showing up to ensure that these events were successful. Lastly, we are finding that successful and engaging programs need longer planning time than previously. Thus, plans are currently in the works for healthcare and immigration forums in Fall 2017. Be sure to stay tuned to League e-blasts for more information.



For the 2016-17 year, we held the following events:

November 19th: Political Parties, Polls & The Politics of Gender: Post-Election. Featured speaker: Rachel Bernhard, from the Department of Political Science, U.C. Berkeley.

January 20th: Presidential Inauguration. Community viewing of the new President and Vice President taking their oaths of office on the steps of the Capitol and the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue following the swearing-in ceremony. Co-Sponsor: Friends of the Alameda Free Library.

February 15th: American Muslims 102, Fact vs. Fiction. Speakers discussed issues such as cultural interpretations of the role of women in Muslim communities, Sharia Law, the influence of Wahabism, misconceptions of American Muslims, how Muslim mosques can reach out to local communities and the role that organizations and interfaith groups can play in promoting post-election healing. Co-Sponsors: Friends of the Alameda Free Library and American Association of University Women, Alameda Chapter.

April 27th: Popular Vote vs Electoral College, How to Tip the Scales. Panel of experts discussed the current electoral process and options such as the National Popular Vote Compact that would make for a more representative presidential vote outcome.

May 17th: What's Next for Affordable Housing in Alameda. Featured speaker: Sean McPhetridge, Superintendent, Alameda Unified School District on recent state legislation making it easier for districts to provide school employees with affordable housing options along with other speakers on the current housing crisis in the Bay Area. Co-Sponsors: Alameda Home Team and the Housing Authority of the City of Alameda.

Patricia Young, Program Chair

Voter Services

The Fall 2016 election season engendered a flurry of activity with the Action Committee (preparing pros and cons and determining LWVA positions on local issues plus writing them up for publication); Voters Edge (see below); and Voter Services. Volunteers distributed voter registration affidavits to 16 locations around Alameda under contract with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters and staffed registration tables at various events.

Organized by Voter Services Chair Dorothy Kerwin, LWVA hosted five pre-election forums in September and October at the Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle. To enthusiastic audiences, the League presented 20 candidates for local office as well as detailed pros and cons on 17 state ballot measures and 7 local measures.

Participating candidates were campaigning for seats on the Alameda City Council (Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Tony Daysog, Jennifer Roloff, Lena Tam, Malia Vella); AUSD Board of Trustees (Ardella Dailey, Gray Harris, Matthew Hettich, Anne McKereghan, Dennis Popalardo); City Auditor (Kevin Kearny, Mike McMahon); AC Transit Board (Chris Peeples), East Bay Regional Parks District Board (Daniel Chesmore, Ellen Corbett, Otis Sanders); Alameda Superior Court Judge (Scott Jackson); State Assembly District 18 (Rob Bonta) and State Senate District 9 (Nancy Skinner, Sandre Swanson). Local measures included BART Bond Measure RR; AC Transit Measure C1, Alameda County Bond Measure A (Affordable Housing); City of Alameda Measure K1 (Utilities Modernization Act), Measures L1 and M1 (competing rent stabilization measures), and AUSD Measure B1.

Abundant thanks go to the many League members who helped with voter registration and organized the forums, publicized the events, made pros and cons presentations, printed and distributed the voter education materials, set up the venues and kept things going. The Alameda League really did itself proud.



Voters Edge

The League of Women Voters of California has transformed the SmartVoter project into a more dynamic system called Voters Edge in partnership with MapLight (votersedge.org/ca). The LWVC has organized their responsibilities by county. Each county has a County Coordinator (CoCo). Each League within a county has a Local Coordinator (LoCo). The Voters Edge project is far more sophisticated and far more technologically advanced than the previous project and therefore better serves the objective of voter education.

The following is the report of our local activity:

Voters Edge – Alameda County Assignments

LWV Alameda	Total Candidates	24	On Line as of 11/1/16	21
Alameda Unified School District	6		6	
Alameda City Council	5		4	
Alameda City Auditor	2		2	
Alameda City Treasurer	2		1	
EBRPD Ward 4	3		3	
AC Transit Ward 2	2		1	
BART Director Dist. 7	4		4	

87% of candidates contributed the minimum required information. In most cases, they contributed more than the minimum. Note that AC Transit Ward 2 does not serve Alameda. In the attempt to evenly distribute candidate races among the various county Leagues, Alameda was assigned this race.

Measures Assigned

- Measure B – Alameda USD Parcel Tax
- Measure K – City of Alameda – Charter Amendment – Utility Modernization Act
- Measure L – City of Alameda – Rent Stabilization Ordinance
- Measure M – City of Alameda – Charter Amendment - Rent Control

Data concerning each of the Measures are entered into the VE DES (Data Entry System). In some cases, we were able to copy and paste information from the various resources. In others, it was more difficult and time consuming.

Our next commitment will be the Primary Elections in June 2018.

Juelle-Ann Boyer, Voters Edge Local Coordinator
Kimberlee MacVicar, Team member

Youth Outreach Committee

The Youth Outreach Committee was formed two years ago to add Alameda high school and college students to our demographics and extend to them the League’s historic mission to ensure that they are informed, engaged and valued participants in the governmental process.

In partnership with the College of Alameda (CoA), DEMOCRACY MATTERS: LWVA/CoA High School Civics Scholarship Program was created. Democracy Matters was designed to encourage creative thinking, enhance knowledge of civics, and raise awareness of the political process for potential youth voters and their families.

How the LWVA/CoA Partnership works:

- The LWVA chooses the debate topic from positions the League has taken on public policy issues.



- The CoA determines the contest format. This year was a speech tournament with student participants expressing their views on whether or not the voting age should be reduced to 16.
- The LWVA is responsible for the scholarship funding, the program budget,
- CoA Communications Department provides coaching and public speaking skills, which include practice and research facilities as well as the venue for culminating event.
- CoA provides each high-school participant with one college credit in Communications.

The LWVA Board voted to contribute \$1500 to Democracy Matters: LWVA/CoA Civics Scholarship Program to award a \$1000 scholarship to the winner and a \$500 scholarship to the runner up.

The six teen competitors in the 2017 High School Speech Tournament held at the College on Saturday April 2017 were participants from Girls Inc. of the Island City, Alameda High School and Alameda Science and Technology Institute (ASTI). Over 100 people attended! Each of them spoke to the question “Should the Voting Age be Lowered to 16?”

Judges for this year’s speech tournament, were Joshua Quigley, representing Congresswoman Barbara Lee; Tim Karas, President of College of Alameda; Alameda Council Members Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Jim Oddie; and Jane Yee, a Bay Area civil litigation attorney.

Alice Fried, Youth Outreach Chair

LEAGUE PROGRAM: POSITIONS AND ACTION (DEFINITION)

A League position is the stand of the League on a public issue. It serves as the basis for advocacy or action. Action includes lobbying, legislative testimony, public statements, media campaigns, and joining coalitions. A League position is established after members have studied an issue and achieved consensus on policies and practices that best serve the public interest. Local League positions are used in conjunction with positions adopted by the national and state levels of League and may not be in conflict with them, if they are on the same subject.

Local Positions of the League of Women Voters of Alameda, Revised 2016

The Board recommends the re-adoption of the Local Positions as revised in 2016 and approved at the June 24, 2016 annual meeting. The Board does not recommend the retention of the previous position on the Port of Oakland as proposed at the 2016 annual meeting.

CITY CHARTER (1978, 2016)

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports measures providing simplicity and transparency in the City Charter through clarification of meaning and elimination of obsolete or inapplicable provisions.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS (1997, 2016)

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports measures that protect the resilience of Alameda’s residents and businesses through disaster mitigation, training, response and recovery.

The City’s disaster preparedness plan should clearly define the roles and responsibilities of public officials, employees, public and private agencies, organizations, utilities, and other entities related to public health and safety and social services.



ELECTIONS (1985, 1998, 2016)

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports the adoption of a Fair Campaign Practices Code by the City Council for the local election of Public Officials with the goal of ensuring greater transparency of donations and spending.

Local special elections should be held by mail ballot with return postage provided. Adequate time should be allowed for voters to become informed about the election and to return the mail ballot. Procedures should be instituted to ensure widespread publicity and effective distribution of the ballots.

LAND USE (1974, 2016)

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports land use policies and revisions of the General Plan that are designed to:

- I. Advance the general welfare of the residents of Alameda in such areas as housing, public and social services, noise and odor control, beautification, and commercial and industrial development.
- II. Improve existing traffic patterns, including public transportation and access to BART. Alternatives to increased auto usage, such as bike paths and walkways, should be actively pursued.
- III. Promote light industrial and commercial development using all available means engendered in state law. Existing commercial areas should be upgraded and rehabilitated.
- IV. Implement existing conservation and open space elements of the General Plan. The City has the responsibility to ensure that the existing shoreline is developed and maintained for public use.
- V. Ensure that periodic reviews of the General Plan and its related elements incorporate comprehensive community input, including public hearings and posting of proposed changes in public media at the pre-draft, draft and adoption stages.
- VI. Express land use policies clearly, with concrete goals and objectives that adequately reflect cost considerations, environmental factors and citizen input.

HOUSING and TRANSPORTATION (1989, 2005, 2016)

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports City housing and transportation policies that:

- I. Fulfill Alameda's needs for housing at all economic land mobility levels. New developments should have a variety of densities and amenities that will support continuation of the quality of life now enjoyed in Alameda.
- II. Provide maximum feasible open space, defined as sufficient communal green space, walking paths, playgrounds, tot-lots, and other naturally landscaped areas to encourage and enhance livability and strong community identity.
- III. Meet or exceed current standards for energy efficiency. All designs should show consideration for minimum negative impact on air, water, and surrounding natural environment.
- IV. Provide an appropriate number of off-street parking spaces for each type of housing in the mix.
- V. Maximize the use of public, accessible, and alternative modes of transportation in order to maintain livability and decrease traffic on residential streets.
- VI. Ensure the safety of entrances and exits to housing developments, schools, business and shopping areas.

LIBRARY (1991, 2016)

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports a public library system that meets the diverse needs of all Alamedans. Funding for the Alameda Free Library should be increased. If the Library receives additional funds through taxes, bond measures or grants/gifts, General funds should not be reduced. Hours of service for the Main and neighborhood libraries should be increased, including weekend and evening hours, as well as space for library functions. Library resources should reflect changing uses and technologies, with an emphasis on popular materials, reference, and children's sections. LWVA urges the City Council to approve the Library Strategic Plan, including its mission and goals, and to support a viable library system in Alameda.



POSITIONS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE ALAMEDA COUNTY LEAGUES

These positions were adopted at the Annual Meeting of the Leagues of Alameda County. Changing or dropping one of these positions must be approved by a majority (5) of the 7 Leagues of Alameda County. Action on any of these positions must be approved by a majority of the Leagues.

The Board recommends re-adoption of support for the following positions

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION (Adopted 2007)

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

A. **Efficiency:** Provide those services (education, training, fiscal, oversight) to county school programs and district school programs that do not duplicate those provided by districts or other agencies.

B. **Effectiveness:** Provide those services that best meet the needs and interests of local districts. Constantly monitor services to determine their effectiveness and remove or improve those that are not meeting district goals.

C. **Equitable Balance of Responsibility and Authority for Governance**

1. 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.
2. 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 and equity.

D. **Accountability to the Public**

1. Ensure that both the Board and the Superintendent abide by the tenets of the Brown Act, and the Freedom of Information Act and the California Public Records Act.
2. Maintain public visibility by utilizing technology to keep constituents informed about actions taken by the Board and the County Superintendent.
3. Advertise upcoming elections for Board members' and the County Superintendent's 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.
4. Develop a collaborative Annual Work Plan to set up measurable goals to be used in the annual evaluation of both Board Members' and Superintendent's performance. These evaluations will then be helpful in the Superintendent salary-setting process and for measuring progress toward established goals.

II. **Monitoring**

The League's role should be to:

- Continue observing County Board of Education meetings to ensure compliance with the Brown Act and Education Code.
- Monitor the County Office website to ensure that constituents have access to current and complete information concerning actions taken by the County Office/Superintendent and the Board.
- Review Grand Jury comments and recommendations pertaining to the County Board and County Superintendent and support those that support the improvement of efficient, effective, and appropriate governance and fiscal management of those entities.
- Monitor the governance model to determine if there is any interest by the public in changing the method of selecting a County Superintendent.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Support policies which promote services to meet the needs of Alameda County youth and minimize delinquency.



- A. The County Council supports effective and responsible decision-making for youth at the county level. Specifically, the Council supports:
1. Continuing evaluation of the Alameda County Probation Department Juvenile Division to ensure that its goals and functions are clear and effective.
 2. Continued citizen input into all countywide juvenile justice programs.
 3. 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.
 4. Citizen involvement in setting priorities for diversion and prevention services.
 5. Continued evaluation and accountability to the public of programs funded by public moneys.
 6. County decision-making bodies:
 - a. Appointment to commissions that reflect the diversified population of the County
 - b. Guidelines for commission members which are clear statements of their responsibilities and authority
 - c. Assessment of limited number of terms
 - d. Reimbursement to commissioners for personal expenses, i.e., transportation and babysitting.
- B. The County Council supports a coordinated multidimensional concept of service which could include:
1. Vocational training
 2. Programs that provide jobs and job training for youth
 3. Recreational opportunities
 4. Counseling for youth and their families, both long-term and for crises
 5. Mental health services which meet the needs of youth, supported by adequate funding, i.e., residential treatment centers for juveniles
 6. Youth diversion programs
 - a. Staff volunteers having close ties to the community of the juveniles being served
 - b. Involvement of youth in program planning, implementation and evaluation
 - c. Integration into projects available with other than just delinquent youth
 - d. Adequate program facilities
- C. 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.
- D. The County Council supports greater community awareness of the problems and needs of youth and programs that are currently available.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

(End of Alameda County League Positions)



Nominating Committee Report for 2017-2018

The nominating committee submits the following slate for the election to be held at the Annual Meeting of LWVA on June 24, 2017. Next year’s board configuration will comply with our by-laws ARTICLE V, section 1. a., with a President and an Administration Vice-President. In addition to the six officers, we are submitting the names of eight others who have agreed to accept to become or continue as directors. Our by-laws allow for up to 20 directors: the incoming board may appoint or reappoint additional at-large directors including an editor of The Voter. In our discussions we have learned that other League members, including the incumbent Budget Chair and Webmaster, will take on or continue tasks that do not require board membership.

Officers nominated to be elected at the Annual Meeting

President	Georgia Gates Derr
Administration VP	Ruth Dixon-Mueller
Program VP	Patricia Young
Membership VP	Doris Gee
Secretary	Cynthia Silva
Treasurer	Marian Breitbart

Directors nominated to be elected at the Annual Meeting

Action co-chair	Karen Butter
Action co-chair	Felice Zensius
Communications chair	Keasha Martindill
Fundraising chair	Linda Asbury
Voter Service chair	Juelle-Ann Boyer
Bay Area League liaison	Sally Faulhaber
At Large	Kate Quick
At Large	Ken Werner

Nominating Committee for 2017 (three non-board members to be elected at the Annual Meeting as well as two board members to be appointed later by the board)

Kathryn Sáenz Duke Anne Spanier Gayle Thomas

The committee has reviewed the **Job Descriptions** last updated by the 2015 Nominating Committee and posted on the LWVA Website. With the advice of current incumbents this year's Nominating Committee has asked the Board to approve 2017 updates for President, Vice President of Membership, Treasurer, Action Chair, Communications Chair, Voter Services Chair, Nominating Committee Chair. Other job descriptions were either still applicable or postponed. Job descriptions for the Voter’s Edge, e-Mail Manager, and Webmaster still need to be posted. Further updates could be requested at LWVA's summer retreat.

The Nominating Committee also recommends the board consider **summer retreat** discussions about the length of board terms (including renewal, staggering and term limits) and brainstorming about the best way to involve LWVA members in the various work and tasks of the League. Both relate to Nominating Committee work objectives. We can encourage tech literacy skills as well as plan further activities to encourage LWVA leadership in the community--including perhaps voter registration, running for office, LWVA work generally that might attract more participation in 2017-2018 (and the election years that follow). Such specific efforts also could potentially attract more interested members for LWVA board and committee leadership functions.

We thank LWVA members generally for their advice, their encouragement for our work and their willingness to become/remain involved in any capacity in the upcoming year.

Respectfully submitted by the 2017 Nominating Committee,

Dorie Guess Behrstock, Chair

Kathryn Saenz Duke

Anne McKereghan

Doris Gee

Patricia Young



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA STATEMENTS AND POLICIES

League of Women Voters of the United States Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

--from LWWUS web site

League of Women Voters of Alameda Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy, through education and advocacy.

LWV does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

League of Women Voters of Alameda Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Alameda, in both its values and practices, affirms its commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWV on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, or disability.

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League of Women Voters of Alameda Nonpartisan Policy

Definition: The League of Women Voters as an organization neither supports nor opposes political candidates.

Policy Statement: Responsibility for the maintenance of the League’s reputation as a non-partisan group rests with the League Board. The League Board must be consulted if questions arise. In making decisions, the Board will rely to a large extent upon the whole situation.

- I. League Board members may serve on appointed Boards, Commissions, or Committees.
- II. League Board members who run for or hold an elected or party office may not retain their position on the Board.
- III. The President, Action Chair, and Voter Service Chair may not take a public or active role in elections or recalls of candidates.



LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF ALAMEDA

2017 Annual Meeting Reservation Form - *DUE BY MON. JUNE 19TH*

Saturday, June 24, 2017 – 11:30 AM
OTAEZ RESTAURANT (MEXICAN),

\$30.00 for buffet lunch. Price includes tax and tip. No host bar.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

RSVP and pay on-line at <http://www.lwvalameda.org/annual-meeting-luncheon-2017.html>
(click on Shop at the bottom of the page)

Or you can mail this reservation with a check payable to LWV Alameda for \$30.00 per lunch in the enclosed envelope to LWVA, PO Box 1645, Alameda CA 94501.

Questions about payment? Contact Marian at 769-1604, mbreitbart@mac.com

SATURDAY, June 24, 2016 ANNUAL MEETING KIT
**** Please Bring Kit with You to the Annual Meeting ****
RESERVATIONS ARE DUE JUNE 19TH

