



CALL to 2021 (Virtual) Annual Meeting

Information on how to attend will be sent to you in our eBlast.
It can also be found at <https://bit.ly/3eHj4Q1>.

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

Saturday, June 26th, 12:45-2:45 PM

12:45 Virtual Gathering

1:00 Guest speaker Serena Chen, Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders in Alameda

1:30 Call to Order

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2:45 Adjourn

Please have this kit with you when you attend the Annual Meeting



RULES OF THE 2021 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, 21 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 2021 Annual Meeting as May 26, 2021. 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

Brief motions should be submitted in writing to the Chat Box during the virtual meeting on June 26, 2021.

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 President.



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

June 20, 2020, 1:00-2:30 pm

Meeting held via teleconferencing due to COVID-19 restrictions

Guest Speaker: State Senator Nancy Skinner

Call to Order: 1:25 pm, LWVA president Susan Hauser

Credentials Report: Doris Gee reported 39 eligible voting members present (logged in), meeting the quorum requirement of 21 voting members.

Parliamentarian: Sally Faulhaber was introduced as the Parliamentarian.

Adoption – Order of Business and Rules of the Meeting: 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 June 22, 2019 Annual Meeting. Mark Hamilton, Mari Clark and Ashley Lorden will review the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes.

President's Report: Susan Hauser noted the many social and political activities in which LWVA engaged in the past year, including the celebration of the Centennial of the League of Women Voters (see committee reports in the Annual Meeting kit). Susan thanked Board members, committee chairs and volunteers warmly for their contributions.

Treasurer's Report: Anna Crane presented the report for the first nine months of fiscal year 2019-2020. The balance sheet as of March 31, 2020 shows a general fund of \$32,309; a certificate of deposit of \$10,119; and a money market account of \$5,005. LWVA is extremely grateful to the estate of Patti Heimburger for the legacy grant of \$10,000 for three years, the first of which has been received.

Presentation of Proposed Budget: Anticipated expenses for fiscal year 2020-2021 are \$27,937; income \$23,850, with a projected deficit of \$4,088. Expenditures to date for 2019-2020 are lower than anticipated due to coronavirus closures, and income is higher due to the legacy grant. The Centennial fundraising appeal (\$100 for 100 years) raised \$7,481, exceeding the projected net income of \$5,500 from the Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO) which was not held this year.

Approval of Budget: Following the presentation and discussion of the recommended program for 2020-2021 (see below) and the adoption of a Bylaw change, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the 2020-2021 Budget as presented. It will be placed on file.

Recommended Program: Karen Butter directed members to the recommended program for 2020-2021 in the Annual Meeting kit. Local and county League positions on issues as adopted in June 2018 were not included in the kit. Positions e-mailed to meeting participants included an LWVA statement on the Port of Oakland that had been eliminated in June 2018. Following clarification of this question, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the program as follows:

Local:

- Retain all existing Local positions [as approved at the June 23, 2018 Annual Meeting]
- No new study or update study for 2020-2021
- Adopt as Issues for Emphasis for 2020-2021
 - Schools and Communities First Campaign
 - Campaign Finance Reporting and Reform
 - High School Civics Education and Voter Registration
 - Transparency and Good Government



State: Making Democracy Work in California, Environment/Natural Resources, Health Care, and Tax Reform

National: Campaign for Making Democracy Work with four priority areas: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

Recommended Bylaw change:

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to amend the League of Women Voters of Alameda Bylaws, Article IX, Section 2, to insert the words "and physical or virtual location" in the first sentence, which now says: "An Annual Meeting of Local League Members shall be held between May 1 and July 1, the exact date and physical or virtual location to be determined by the Board."

Nominating Committee: Cynthia Silva presented the slate of board members nominated for 2020-2021. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to elect the slate as follows:

Officers elected at the 2020 Annual Meeting

President	Susan Hauser
VP Administration	Anne McKereghan
VP Programs	William Smith
VP Membership	Doris Gee
Secretary	Ashley Lorden
Treasurer	Anna Crane

Additional directors elected at the 2020 Annual Meeting

Action chair	Karen Butter
Bay Area League liaison	Sally Faulhaber
Bay Area League liaison	Kate Quick
Communication chair	Keasha Martindill
Fundraising chair	Sheila Durkin
Voter Service co-chair	Barbara Price
Voter Service co-chair	Ken Werner
Youth Outreach	Laura Kinley

Nominating Committee

Non-Board members: Jenn Heflin Wit and Andrea Carlise volunteered from the floor; the third position is to be filled.

Board members: Two to be selected by the incoming Board of Director

Directions to the Board:

- Incorporate language reflecting the option of virtual meetings in all written materials (positions, policies, etc.) (Li Volin and Anna Crane volunteered).
- Diversify LWVA's membership through recruitments and other means (Bill Smith, Jenn Heflin Wit volunteered, to coordinate with Membership Chair Doris Gee).
- Invite older members who are less mobile to meet with new members in "virtual coffees" (Li Volin).
- Emphasize actual voting and not only registration in the upcoming elections (Ken Werner).

Adjourned 2:40 PM

Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Secretary



TREASURER’S REPORT, FY 2020 (7/1/2020 through 3/31 2021)

Cash on hand 3/31/2021

Checking Account - Bank Of Marin	\$40,107
Money Market Account - First Internet	\$20,131
Total Assets	\$60,238

Operating Statement

Receipts	\$26,554
Expenditures	\$12,066
Gain/(loss) from Operations	\$14,488

Anna Crane, Treasurer

Proposed Budget

Income Category	Code	Description	FY2021 budget	FY 2021 YTD	FY 2022 Proposed
Contributions	1A	Individual donations	5,000	\$4,726	4,000
	1C	Dues	6,500	\$7,328	7,400
Fundraising	2A	Youth Outreach	1,000	\$2,275	500
	2B	Projects	150	\$400	400
	2C	Other fundraising	1,000	\$0	1,000
Grants	1B	Grants	10,000	\$11,750	10,000
Interest	3	Interest on savings	200	\$75	100
			23,850	26,554	23,400

Assumptions Donations and grant money are likely to drop off somewhat now that the election is behind us.

We do expect the final installment of the legacy grant in December.
Interest rates are likely to remain low all year.



Expenses Category	Code	Description	FY2021 budget	FY 2021 YTD	FY 2022 Proposed
Advocacy	H1	Advocacy publications	400	\$856	500
Board Expenses	F1	Board retreat	200	\$0	500
	F2	Insurance	100	\$35	35
	F3	Chamber Dues	175	\$175	175
	F4	Board tools	100	\$0	
	F5	Administration misc.	200	\$118	200
Forums	A1	Room Rentals	3,000	\$880	1000
	A2	Videotaping	480	\$0	950
	A3	Forum publicity	1,813	\$0	1750
	A4	Supplies	650	\$0	50
Membership	C1	Annual Meeting	100	\$0	100
	C2	Postage	200	\$239	300
	C3	Annual/renewal kits, Dir	800	\$377	600
	C4	Per Member Payments-BA	239	\$236	250
	C5	Per Member Payments-CA	2,226	\$1,649	1700
	C6	Per Member Payments-US	2,544	\$2,512	2600
	C7	National/State Meeting	3,000	\$0	6500
Office Expenses	D1	Post office box rental	130	\$0	130
	D2	Stamps	100	\$0	100
	D3	Web site maintenance	100	\$15	600
	D4	Supplies	100	\$0	100
	D5	Printing	100	\$0	500
	D6	State fees	20	\$25	25
Special	G1	Centennial	100	\$0	
	G2	Fundraising	321	\$0	
Voter Service	B1	Printing	1,500	\$473	500
	B2	Registration events	2,000	\$0	0
	B3	Voter's Edge Contribution	1,750	\$1,750	1750
	B4	Voter event publicity	600	\$698	600
Youth Outreach	E1	Speech Contest	2,690		2690
	E2	Civics Challenge/Fake news	2,200	\$2,030	5850
Contingency					1500
Total			27,938	12,066	31,555

Assumptions:

There will not be funding for a special event (like the Centennial)

We will have 2 in-person forums plus virtual events which need publicity

Additional server space will be needed for the VerifyIt game

Estimated gain/loss **(-5,465)**



LEAGUE PROGRAM: POSITIONS AND ACTION

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.

Recommended LWVA Program 2021-2022

Local:

- No new study or update study for 2021-2022
- Adopt as Issues for Emphasis for 2021-2022
 - Campaign Finance Reporting
 - Electoral Reform and Campaign Finance Reform
 - Civics Education and Voter Registration in High Schools
 - Transparency and Good Government
 - Promote Development that Serves All Portions of the Community

State: Making Democracy Work in California, Environment/Natural Resources, Health Care, and Tax Reform. The LWVA Board has recommended the addition of Redistricting and Housing and Homelessness to LWVC’s Issues for Emphasis for 2021-2022.

National: Campaign for Making Democracy Work with four priority areas: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

Local Positions of the League of Women Voters of Alameda

The Board recommends the re-adoption of the Local Positions as approved at the June 23, 2018 Annual Meeting, with one revision: Housing and Transportation, point V (see below).

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, 2018)

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 including universal design standards 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.~~ Maximize the use of public, accessible, and alternative modes of transportation with safe parking and infrastructure for vehicles of all types in order to maintain livability and decrease traffic.
- 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 Alameda County Council Of Leagues (ACC)

The LWVA Board recommends re-adoption of the ACC positions as stated at <https://my.lwv.org/california/oakland/issues-and-positions/support-positions-alameda-county-league-council>

RECOMMENDED BYLAW CHANGES

Motion to amend the League of Women Voters of Alameda Bylaws according to the substitute language below.

LWVA Bylaws can be found at www.LWVAAlameda.org. On Home Page, click on Membership heading; on Membership page, click on Member information and scroll down to LWV Policies and Mission: Bylaws.

Rationale for proposed changes:

Article II: Purpose and Policy. Changes to conform to LWV national policy.

Article III: Membership. Clarifies status of student members; reflects the automated reinstatement of members who pay dues after the cutoff date for the National roster.

Article IV: Board of Directors. Changes to conform to current practices for establishing committees.

Article IX: Meetings and Voting Rights. Changes notice requirements to provide that the Board will determine how notice of meetings will be given and materials distributed. Allows the Board to provide this information through the official organ (*The Voter*), while mailing the information only on request.

General: Removes obsolete/repetitive language. Improves formatting.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA BYLAWS Updated 2021

These bylaws provide for the regulation of the League of Women Voters of Alameda, a California Non-profit Public Benefit Corporation, except as otherwise provided by statute or the League’s Articles of Incorporation.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE AND POLICY

Section 2. Policy. The League shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate. The League of Women Voters of Alameda is fully committed to ensuring compliance—in principle and in practice—with LWVUS’ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Eligibility. Any person who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League and who pays dues as provided for in Article VIII Section 2 shall be eligible for membership in the League.

Section 2.Types of Membership.

(a) Local League Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League of Women Voters of Alameda shall be voting members of League. Those who make a lump-sum life membership payment to the LWVUS shall be paid life members and those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be honorary life members excused from the payment of dues. Only voting members shall be members within the meaning of Section 5056 of the California Non-profit Corporation Law.

(b) Associate Members. All other persons enrolled in the League. The League encourages the participation of young people who are interested in active participation in civic activities.

Only Local League Voting Members shall be members within the meaning of Section 5056 of the California Non-profit Corporation Law.



Section 3. Termination of Membership. The status of Members may be terminated in the manner set forth in this Section.

(d) Members who fail to renew their membership by January 31 of each year will be placed in inactive status. They will be reinstated automatically upon payment of dues.

ARTICLE IV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 6. Powers and Duties. (e) The Board of Directors is authorized to approve or reject proposed changes to the Bylaws of the ILO.

Section 7. Regular Meetings. There shall be at least nine regular meetings of the Board annually. The time and place for such meetings shall be set by the directors at their first meeting. No action taken at any regular Board meeting attended by three-fourths of the directors shall be invalidated because of the failure of any director to receive any notice properly sent or because of any irregularity in any notice actually received. Meetings may be conducted in person, online or by telephone as the board shall decide by majority vote.

Section 14. Committees. The Board may appoint committees, chaired by one or more directors.

Committees perform much of the work of the organization. When a committee is created, the Board will designate a director to chair the committee and outline the committee's area of responsibility. Chairs will recruit individuals from the Board, general membership and associate members to participate in the committee's work. The committee will formulate proposals for approval by the Board. The chair may spend funds in accordance with the approved budget without separate authorization of the Board. Expenses in excess of the approved budget must be authorized by the Board in advance. Standing committees include Membership, Programs, Communication, Action, Voter Service, Youth Outreach, Fund Development and Budget. The Board may appoint additional committees as needed. Unless the Board or such committee shall otherwise provide, the regular and special meetings and other actions of any such committee shall be governed by the provisions of this Article IV applicable to meetings and actions of the Board. Minutes shall be kept of each meeting of each committee.

The Budget Committee will be composed of the Treasurer and one to three other members. The Treasurer cannot be the chair of the Budget Committee.

A special Executive Committee composed of the President, Administrative Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three other members elected by the Board will be created for the purpose of transacting emergency business between meetings of the Board of Directors. The proceedings and decisions of the Executive Committee will be reported to the Board at its next meeting for ratification. Four members shall constitute a quorum of the Executive Committee.

Section 15. Fees and Compensation. Directors and members of the committees may receive reimbursement for expenses, as determined by the Board.

ARTICLE IX MEETINGS AND VOTING RIGHTS

Section 1. Local League Membership Meetings. There shall be at least three meetings of the Local League Members each year. Time and place shall be determined by the Board. Meetings may be held via conferencing technology (such as Zoom) when the Board determines this is advisable.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. An Annual Meeting of Local League Members shall be held between May 1 and July 1, the exact date and physical or virtual location to be determined by the Board. At the Annual Meeting



the Local League Members shall: (a) adopt a local program for the ensuing year; (b) elect directors, officers and local League Members to serve on the nominating committee; (c) adopt a budget; and (d) transact such other business as may properly come before it.

Section 3. Voting. Each local League Voting Member shall be entitled to one vote only at any meeting of local League Members. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. If the meeting is being held online, the meeting host will tabulate and display the results. Upon the written demand made by a local League Member at the Annual Meeting before voting begins, the elections for directors must be by ballot. In a contested election for directors, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes are elected.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum for the Annual Meeting of local League Members and for any meeting in which Local League Members are entitled to vote shall consist of twenty-one local League Members.

Section 5. Notice of the Annual Meeting. Written notice of each Annual Meeting of Local League Members shall be given not less than thirty days or more than more than ninety days before the date of the Annual Meeting to each Local League Member. Such notice shall state the place, date and hour of the Annual Meeting and those matters that the Board, at the time of the mailing of the notice, intends to present for action, but, subject to the provisions of applicable law, any proper matter may be presented at the Annual Meeting for such action. The notice shall also include the names of all those who are nominees for director at the time the notice is sent.

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

- (a) By mailing such notice enclosed in a stamped envelope addressed to the last known address of the Local League Member as shown by the records of the State League, or
- (b) By publishing such notice in the publication which is the official organ of the League and making the material available by mail on request or
- (c) By any other method determined by the Board in accordance with the applicable law.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The LWVA Nominating Committee submits the following slate of candidates for elected positions on the Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. In according with LWVA Bylaws, we submit the names of six officers and at least eight additional members who have agreed to become or continue as directors. Our Bylaws allow for up to 20 directors. A number of additional committee positions, several of which have new members this year, do not require Board membership..

Many thanks to all of you for sharing your skills with the League and Making Democracy Work!

Proposed Slate for LWVA 2021-2022 Board of Directors

Officers nominated to be elected at the Annual Meeting

President	Anne McKereghan
VP Administration	Keasha Martindill
VP Membership	Doris Gee
VP Programs	Jeff Cambra
Secretary	Ashley Lorden
Treasurer	Anna Crane



Additional directors nominated to be elected at the Annual Meeting

Action co-chair	Karen Butter
Action co-chair	Irene Dieter
Bay Area League liaison	Kate Quick
Communications chair	Keasha Martindill
Fund Development	Sheila Durkin
Voter Service co-chair	Barbara Price
Voter Service co-chair	Lenore (Red) Lustig
Youth Outreach co-chair	Laura Kinley
At Large	Susan Hauser

Nominating Committee 2021-2022

Non-Board members (three to be elected at the Annual Meeting)

THREE POSITIONS OPEN: VOLUNTEERS WELCOME!

Board members of the committee (two) will be selected by the incoming Board of Directors

Respectfully submitted by the 2020-2021 Nominating Committee,

Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Chair

Andrea Carlise

Jenn Heflin Wit, replaced by Sharon Schainker

Ken Werner

Doris Gee

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA

LWVA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA), in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVA on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military status, national origin or disability. The LWVA affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the City of Alameda in its members, board, and programs. The LWVA recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization’s mission in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

LWVA 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 nonpartisan 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.

- League Board members may serve on appointed Boards, Commissions, or Committees.
- League Board members who are actively running by publicly announcing they are forming a committee, or hold an elected or party office may not retain their position on the Board.
- The President, Action Chair, and Voter Service Chair may not take a public or active role in elections or recalls of candidates.



ANNUAL MEETING, JUNE 26, 2021

COMMITTEE REPORTS

[These are not agenda items]

Learn more about what our committees do and how you can participate at
<https://www.LWVAlameda.org/volunteer.html>

ACTION COMMITTEE

The Action Committee analyzes and writes Pros and Cons for local Ballot Measures; recommends to our Board whether LWVA should take a position on a local measure and writes statements to support our recommendations; follows issues of interest in local governing bodies; and advocates for national, state and local League priorities. Major activities during the past year include the following:

Ballot Measures: In League with LWVC, LWVA supported **Proposition 15**, the statewide Schools and Communities Initiative on the November 2020 ballot to raise commercial property taxes, with publicity, lawn signs, newspaper articles, endorsements and presentations at Pros and Cons meetings. The measure failed by a small margin.

LWVA prepared pros and cons and position statements on two local measures. We supported **Measure AA** to change the City Charter by broadening the definition of interference by elected and appointed officials, which passed. We also supported **Measure Z** relating to multi-family housing proscribed in the City Charter, which failed. A local blogger wrote, "The most objective analysis of Measure Z we read before the election was published by the Alameda League of Women Voters."



Criminal Justice: In May 2020, Alameda police arrested a black man for dancing in the street. In collaboration with the Alameda Police Department and AAUW, the Action Committee in September presented two virtual public forums to clarify current police operations, as a first step in making changes the community is calling for. *Nuts & Bolts: Policing in Alameda (Parts I and 11)* can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com>, search **LWV Alameda**.

Money in Politics: We continue to compile and publicize campaign contributions for City and School Board candidates and ballot measures in easily-to-read graphic form. New reports have been added on the inflow of money from different sources and on campaign expenditures. See Campaign Finance Review under VOTER INFO at <https://www.lwvalameda.org>.

Election Reform: Although the topics of District Elections, Ranked Choice Voting and Campaign Finance Reform were proposed as possible items for Charter Review meetings in 2019, this did not happen. To inform the public, the Action Committee presented a two-part virtual forum of experts on the issues and evidence on April 27th and 28th. Recordings of the Zoom sessions on *Election Reform* and *Campaign Finance Reform* can be viewed on <https://www.youtube.com>, search **LWV Alameda**. Action subcommittees will be exploring Campaign Finance Reform and Ranked Choice Voting options in Alameda during the coming year.

Transparency: During the year the League sent letters to members of the City Government and AUSD relating to the Brown Act and the requirements of proper notification to the public.

Karen Butter, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications Committee conveys the work of our League to members and to the Alameda community. We generate and manage publicity through multiple media channels: website, newsletter, eBlasts, news releases to print and on-line news sources, and social media. Highlights of this past program year:

- Due to the pandemic, we hosted forums on Zoom, and streamed forums and premiered event videos on Facebook. These events were praised for their professionalism and were well attended/viewed: our two April voter forums averaged 105 attendees and our two-part series on policing attracted over 200 views. Our committee did not do this alone; we were a part of an impressive team!
- LWV of Alameda now has an Instagram account. We made 50+ posts to promote our League's voter registration efforts and our forums, and now have 135 Instagram followers.
- Our Facebook team made 178 posts this past year, growing our audience from 750 to 959 people who like and follow us on [Facebook.com/LWVAlameda](https://www.facebook.com/LWVAlameda). Each month, on average, our posts reached over 5,100 people, and achieved over 300 engagements (i.e., readers liked, clicked or shared the post they saw).
- We crafted and sent 42 eBlasts (most on a twice-monthly basis) to members and friends of LWVA. Over 35% of recipients (including non-members) read our eBlasts, well above the industry standard of 22% for nonprofits. Our audience remains steady at 518 active subscribers.
- We updated our website regularly and added quality content (LWVAlameda.org). Our website attracted 16,856 unique visitors this past year, a 77% increase over the previous year.

The Communications Team included Anna Crane (eBlasts), Miska Kazda (Voter Editor, website calendar), Keasha Martindill (Chair, event publicity, social media, website, Zoom hosting), Wendy Shiraki (Vice-Chair, event publicity, graphic design, website calendar updates, Zoom hosting), and Jenn Heflin Witt (Instagram).

Please consider volunteering for our team! We provide whatever training you might need, and you can work from home with a flexible time schedule. See LWVAlameda.org/volunteer.html for Communications Committee opportunities, and email communications@lwvalameda.org to volunteer.

Keasha Martindill, Chair

FUND DEVELOPMENT

The goal of the Fund Development Committee is to provide the financial resources to support the mission and programs of the LWVA by raising funds through membership donations, planned giving, fundraising events, directed grants and community services (HOA voting oversight).

Despite the limitations of shelter in place, our League was able to support all of our programs this past year. A big thanks to LWVA members for your generosity. Your donations, along with a generous three-year bequest from the estate of League member Patti Heimburger, made all the difference.

Individual and directed donations this year totaled just over \$7,000. As was the case for last year's Centennial contributions, the response of our members has been heartwarming!

Community Support from Alameda Rotary with a \$500 grant to our Youth Outreach program is also much appreciated.

Matching grants provided by members who were able to double their gift were another important source of funding. According to non-profit research, over 65% of large companies have a Matching Gift Program. Your employer (or former employer) may be one of them!

And for anyone who has been thinking about **Estate Planning**, please consider supporting the work of the Alameda league with a gift in your will, trust or estate plan. Legacy gifts create a sustainable source of revenue for our League and can have a long-term impact on the causes that are important to you.

As we enter a new year, we are truly grateful for all that we have been able to accomplish with your support, your generosity and your belief in the mission of the Alameda League. Thank you!

Sheila Durkin, Chair

MEMBERSHIP

As the County opens up to more in-person events, we invite new members to meet with us for coffee or via zoom to discuss our activities and volunteer opportunities. We currently have 139 members, an increase of 13% from last year. We welcome your ideas for implementing LWVA's Equity, Diversity and Inclusion plan in growing our membership. You do not have to be a US citizen to join. Dues can be covered on request for low-income members, and full-time students age 16 and over can join for free.

If you have a few hours a month to volunteer, even on a one-time basis, please let us know. We try to match volunteers' interests with our various committees. Visit www.LWVAAlameda.org/volunteer.html to learn about the many opportunities we offer for participation and leadership.

Here are some things you can do to stay informed about events and issues:

- Read the **eblasts** you receive from us on the 1st and 15th of the month.
- Sign up for a free *Bay Area Monitor* with news about the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area at <https://bayareamonitor.org/subscribe/>.
- Get regular action alerts from the California League at <https://lwvc.org/take-action/action-alerts>.
- Join us on *Facebook* at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVAAlameda/>. Please "like" us and check back often for the latest information.

A big thank you to the membership committee, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Marian Brietbart, Ken Werner, Linda Garvin, and Marilyn Ng, Susan Schainker, Dorie Behrstock and Mari Clark, and to Doug Neu for

technical support. The committee meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9AM, virtually for now. Would you like to visit us? Please email me at dorisgee48@gmail.com.

Doris L. Gee, Chair

PROGRAMS

The Program Committee organizes free community forums to educate Alameda residents on topics of local interest, improve understanding of and participation in the democratic process, promote LWV equity goals and involve our Alameda LWV in the activities of diverse communities. The committee also provides logistical support for the League's election forums.

Highlights of the pandemic-shortened 2020-2021 Season included the following:

April 8th: **Electrifying Alameda Homes: What's in the Works?** Panel followed by three concurrent breakout rooms: Ann McCormick, President Alameda Public Utility Board; Andy Lentz, Clear Result Energy; Danielle Mieler, City of Alameda Sustainability and Resilience Manager; Emily Nielsen, Seattle University Student and former CASA (Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda) intern; Nick de Vries, Silicon Ranch Corporation, Jeff Gould, Alameda Public Utility Board member. Venue: Virtual hosted by CASA. Organized by William Smith. Cosponsored by CASA with CASA's Ingrid Ballman as moderator. 70+ attended, 110 registered.

The panel advanced LWV Equity, Inclusion and Diversity goals as it increased the panelists and attendees awareness and commitment to electrifying multi-family homes where the majority of under resourced people in Alameda live. Ann McCormick, President of the Alameda Public Utilities Board, stated that the Board still has much to do to develop an equitable rate structure that promotes conservation.

The Program Committee is eager to hear your ideas for forums for the 2021-2022 season and welcomes volunteers to help plan, organize and staff forums. Sign up to volunteer on the League's website, at <https://www.lwvalameda.org/volunteer.html>.

William (Bill) Smith, Chair



VOTER SERVICE

Voter Education

The forums for the candidates for the Alameda School Board (AUSD), Alameda City Council (ACC), Issues pros and cons (State Proposition 15 and Local Ballot Measures AA and Z) and Voter Help Forum (with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters) were held on September 10th, 17th, 24th and

October 14th, all commencing at 7:00 pm via Zoom Webinar and Facebook platforms. Recordings of the Zoom sessions can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com>: search LWV Alameda

Attendees for the AUSD forum exceeded 500 between the two platforms. Attendees for the ACC forum were about 300 over the 2 platforms, the Issue forum pulled about 100 and the Voter Help had fewer than 100.

Due to the virtual presentations, we did not have a lot of jobs for folks who volunteered. Hopefully by the next election cycle we will be able to have “in person” events.

With a special election slated for June 2021 and the State not being open for large gatherings, we will be holding a virtual forum in the similar format of the 2020 elections.

Barbara Price, Co-chair

Voter Registration

The year 2020 was an intense election year. We planned several voter registration events in key underserved communities (e.g., at Alameda Point Collaborative in March, 2020) that were cancelled due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, when appropriate and safe, we were able to:

- Register voters in person with an eye towards underserved communities. We used data analysis to target specific under-registered precincts.
- Encourage Alameda residents to use our dedicated voter registration online form. Through the California Secretary of State’s office we developed a bookmark with an on-line voter registration portal that credits LWVA for reimbursement when used. The bookmark has both the ‘bit.ly’ URL as well as the QR code, allowing citizens to register without an affidavit. We distributed the bookmarks widely and gave over 1000 to the Alameda Free Library to tuck into each checked-out book.
- Solicit League volunteers to receive on-line training from the Alameda County ROV on the newly revised voter registration form/format, questions, and refreshed rules. We can now accept **all** voter registrations in the state, for example; the ROV will send them to the appropriate county ROV.
- Develop an action plan to remind voters that registration is only the beginning of the voting process, and post registration information and links in display ads in the *Alameda Sun*.
- Order and distribute voter information in multiple languages to potential voters online or in person.

We’ll be listening to our membership and citizens for their voting and voter information needs through the rest of 2021, assuming the primary stance of safety. Interested in volunteering? Let us know.

Ken Werner, Co-chair

Voter’s Edge

The Voter’s Edge website <https://votersedge.org/ca>, a joint product of MapLight and LWV California, served as a vital voter education resource for the 2020 election. In the City of Alameda, alone, 3,482 voters spent an average of 9 minutes learning the facts about candidates and measures in order to cast an informed vote. Across California, 1.5 million users visited the site. LWVA volunteers Ashley Lorden and Jenn Heflin Wit were responsible for researching and reporting on local measures and contacting local candidates to share their platforms on the site, achieving a great participation rate of 88 percent. We published information from many sources alongside League-produced materials, including pros and cons on the ballot measures and financial contribution data. Join us for the next election season!

Ashley Lorden

YOUTH OUTREACH

Democracy Matters: Speech Tournament and Civics Scholarship Program

In 2015, LWVA partnered with the College of Alameda to create the LWVA/CoA Speech Tournament and Civics Scholarship Program in which high school students are given the opportunity to enhance their public speaking and research skills. The winner receives a \$1,000 prize and the runner up \$500. All participants receive college credit from the Communication Department at CoA.

The Tournament (seen below in April 2017) was on hiatus in 2020 and 2021 because of the pandemic. It's back! Kristan Wong Karinen, who in March joined LWVA and the Youth Outreach Committee as co-chair, has established a timeline for Spring 2022, identified our audience and goals, and outlined a marketing campaign starting NOW.



Democracy Matters: Play VERIFYIT!™

VERIFYIT! is a free educational, non-partisan, online quiz game designed to tackle the challenges youth face in navigating misinformation online, coupled with the lack of understanding of voting rules and their Constitutional rights. VerifyIt! can be played on mobile phones, computers, and other devices in or outside of the classroom. It is available in both single player and multiplayer modes to teachers, students, administrators, librarian/media curators and families. See a demonstration on [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com), search LWV Alameda. Play VerifyIt! online at verifyit.buzz.

In January 2021, we reported to the Board on the first six months of the pilot project, “a single player game designed to be played by young adults on a computer or smartphone.” In the first school semester, which is half of the budget cycle, there were 3,235 plays, about 650% of our projected total! We reached our goal of going live for Constitution Day.

Having attained our goals of targeted single play in the Alameda schools, in the second half of the year we branched out to include a teacher-driven, multiplayer model. This required extensive programming changes and larger database capabilities. We put them to work with the American Constitution Society’s *Constitution in the Classroom* national event on May 3. Our multi-player game VERIFYIT!, with hundreds of new law, civics and voting rights questions, is on the docket of video-conferenced interviews with public officials, judges, district attorneys, and experiential learning available to middle and high school teachers through the Alameda County Office of Education.

Would you like to work with Youth Outreach this coming year? Please let us know!

Laura Kinley, Co-Chair