



## **CALL to 2022 (Virtual) Annual Meeting**

Information on how to attend will be sent to you in our eBlast.

It can also be found at <https://tinyurl.com/3ktpkztk>.

**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 18, 2022 from 9:45-11:45am**

**09:45 Virtual Gathering**

**10:00 Guest Speaker** Andrew Thomas, City of Alameda

**10:30 Call to Order**

- Credentials Report
- Introduction of Parliamentarian
- Adoption: Order of Business and Rules of the Meeting (**see page 2**)
- Approval: Minutes of the Annual Meeting of June 26, 2021 (**see pages 3-4**)
- Approval: Committee to Review 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
- President's Message
- Treasurer's Report (**see page 5**)
- Presentation of 2022-2023 Budget (**see pages 5-6**)
- Recommended Program (**see pages 6-7**)
- Debate and Adoption of Program
- Debate and Adoption of Budget
- Nominating Committee Report (**see page 11**)
- Election of 2022-2023 Board and Officers
- Directions from Members to the New Board and Committees
- Announcements

**11:45 Adjourn**

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

## **Rules of the 2022 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 2022 Annual Meeting as May 18, 2022. 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 18, 2022.

### **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 Annual Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2021--Virtual Meeting Online via Zoom

**Guest Speaker:** Serena Chen, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Alameda

**Call to Order:** Susan Hauser called the meeting to order at 1:40pm. Donna Vaughn was introduced as the Parliamentarian.

**Credentials Report:** Doris Gee reported 29 eligible voting members present, meeting the quorum requirement of 21 voting members.

**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 20, 2020 Annual Meeting. Red Lustig, Wendy Shiraki, and Anna Crane volunteered to read and correct these minutes.

**President's Report:** Susan Hauser thanked Board Members, Committee Chairs, and volunteers for their efforts, resulting in increased League membership, increased voter registration in Alameda, and some wonderful events, all while keeping expenditures low.

**Youth Outreach Report:** The VerifyIt! game is a fun way to get voting information and up-level media literacy. We now have 800+ questions and several partnerships, and are proud to continue to promote it to [potential] voters to improve civics awareness.

**Treasurer's Report:** Anna Crane presented the report for the fiscal year 2020-21 and next year's proposed budget. The balance sheet as of March 31, 2021 shows current assets of \$60,238. Anticipated expenses for fiscal year 2021-2022 are \$31,555; income \$23,400; projected deficit \$8,155. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the 2021-2022 budget as presented.

**Recommended Program:** Karen Butter shared the following recommended program. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to adopt.

- Retain all existing Local positions: City Charter, Disaster Preparedness, Elections, Land Use, Housing and Transportation and the Library as approved at the June 23, 2018 Annual Meeting with one revision, Housing and Transportation, Point V.
- Retain all existing County positions.
- No new study or update study for 2021-2022.
- 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.

**Ranked Choice Voting Report:** Ranked Choice Voting, also called Instant Runoff, improves representation and incentivizes candidates to better engage constituents, and reduces election costs. In May, LWVA formed a subcommittee to get Ranked Choice on the ballot in Alameda, referencing the national position on Voter Representation/Electoral Systems.

**Recommended Bylaw Changes:** We recommend a change in our bylaws to conform to LWV national policy, clarify the status of student members, reflect automated reinstatement of members who pay dues after the cutoff date for the National roster, conform to current practices for establishing committees, and to change notice requirements. Some recommended changes remove obsolete or repetitive language. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to enact these changes.

**Nominating Committee Report:** Ruth Dixon-Mueller presented the slate of Board Members nominated for 2021-2022. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to elect the slate as follows:

**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 Chair	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

The Nominating Committee requires 3 non-board members; Wendy Shiraki and Bill Smith volunteered, with the third position to be filled. 2 board member positions to be selected.

**Directions to the Board:** We are planning an initiative around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. There will be several trainings for the Board and more discussion at the Board Retreat in August.

Members thanked our outgoing president Susan Hauser.

Anne McKereghan adjourned the meeting in honor of member Juelle Ann Boyer at 2:38pm.

Ashley Lorden, Secretary

**Treasurer's Report, FY 2022 through 3/31****Cash on hand 3/31/2022**

Checking Account - Bank Of Marin	\$32,384
Money Market Account - First Internet	\$40,251
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$72,635</b>

**Operating Statement**

Receipts	\$28,955
Expenditures	\$14,422
<b>Gain/(loss) from Operations</b>	<b>\$14,533</b>

Anna Crane, Treasurer -- 4/12/2022

**Proposed Budget FY 2023**

<b>Expenses:</b>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Advocacy	H1	Advocacy publications	\$6,000
	Board Expenses	F1	Board Retreat	\$ 500
		F2	Insurance	\$ 35
		F3	Chamber Dues	\$ 175
		F4	Board Training	\$ 500
		F5	Administration misc.	\$ 200
	Forums	A1	Room Rentals	\$1,500
		A2	Videotaping	\$ 600
		A3	Forum Publicity	\$1,962
		A4	Supplies	\$ 100
	Membership	C1	Annual Meeting	\$ 100
		C2	Postage	\$ 300
		C3	Annual/Renewal Kits, Dir.	\$ 600
		C4	Per Member Payments-BA	\$ 300
		C5	Per Member Payments-CA	\$2,500
		C6	Per Member Payments-US	\$2,900
		C7	National/State Meeting	\$6,500
		C8	Miscellaneous	\$ 50
	Office Expenses	D1	Post Office Box Rental	\$ 165
		D2	Stamps	\$ 100
		D3	Website Maintenance	\$ 975
		D4	Supplies	\$ 100
		D5	Printing	\$ 500
		D6	State Fees	\$ 45
	Special	G2	Fundraising	\$ 200
	Voter Services	B1	Printing	\$ 500
		B2	Registration Events	\$ 500
		B3	Voter's Edge Contribution	\$2,000
		B4	Voter Event Publicity	\$ 850
	Youth Outreach	E2	Civics Challenge/Fake News	\$9,000
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$39,757</b>

<b>Income:</b>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	Contributions	1A	Individual Donations	\$5,000
		1C	Dues	\$7,400
	Fundraising	2A	Youth Outreach	\$ 500
		2B	Projects	\$ 500
		2C	Other Fundraising	\$1,000
	Grants	1B	Grants	\$2,000
	Interest	3	Interest on Savings	\$ 150
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$16,550</b>

**Net Income**

Estimated Expenses	<b>\$39,757</b>
Income	<b>\$16,550</b>
Shortfall	<b>-\$23,207</b>

**Assets on 3/31:**

Checking	\$32,384
Money Market	<u>\$40,251</u>
Total	\$72,635

**Designated Donations Balance**

RCV	\$ 250
Youth Outreach	\$6,500

**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 2022-2023****Local:**

- Retain all existing LWVA positions
- No new study or update study for 2022-2023
- Adopt as Issues for Emphasis for 2022-2023
  - Campaign Finance Reporting
  - Electoral Reform
  - Campaign Finance Reform
  - Civics Education and Voter Registration for young and new voters
  - Transparency and Good Government
  - Housing, Land Use, Transportation, and Other Related Services for all segments of the community

**State:**

- Retain all existing LWVC positions
- No new study or update study for 2021-2023
- Adopt as Issues for Emphasis for 2021-2023
  - Making Democracy Work in California, with a focus on election reform, voting rights, expanding the electorate, redistricting, money in politics, and civic education
  - Climate Change/Sustainability, including a focus on water
  - Housing and Homelessness
  - Criminal Justice Reform, expanding our education and advocacy on policing and criminal justice reform

**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 our 2021 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, 2017)

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, walkways, and use of waterways 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 access 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 and 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.

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://tinyurl.com/b4zweupe>.

## **League of Women Voters of Alameda Bylaws**

Updated 2021 – online at <https://tinyurl.com/23zkhwtf>

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.

- (a) 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 nor 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 which 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 2022-2023 fiscal year. The 2022-2023 Board will need to fill one position, the VP Admin position, to comply with LWVA Bylaws. Instead of the names of six officers, we submit five, 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 2022-2023 Board of Directors

#### Officers nominated to be elected at the Annual Meeting

President	Anne McKereghan
VP Administration	<i>Open</i>
VP Membership	Susan Hauser
VP Programs	William (Bill) Smith
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	William Smith
Communications Chair	Keasha Martindill
Fund Development Co-Chair	Sheila Durkin
Fund Development Co-Chair	Cynthia Silva
Voter Service Co-Chair	Lenore (Red) Lustig
Voter Service Co-Chair	Carol Kasperek
Youth Outreach Services Chair	Linda Bytof
At Large	Dorothy Kerwin
At Large	Ken Werner

### Nominating Committee 2022-2023

**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 2022-2023 Nominating Committee,

William Smith, Co-Chair

Wendy Shiraki-Raphael, Co-Chair

Doris Gee

Susan Hauser

Kevis Brownson

## **LWVA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy (2021)**

LWVA is an organization fully committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in principle and in practice. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's current and future success in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, gender identity, ethnicity, race, native or indigenous origin, age, generation, sexual orientation, culture, religion, belief system, marital status, parental status, socioeconomic status, language, accent, ability status, mental health, educational level or background, geography, nationality, work style, work experience, job role function, thinking style, personality type, physical appearance, political perspective or affiliation and/or any other characteristic that can be identified as recognizing or illustrating diversity.

## **LWVA Nonpartisan Policy (2017)**

**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.

- 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 18, 2022****COMMITTEE REPORTS**

[These are not agenda items]

**Learn more about what our committees do and how you can participate at****[LWVAlameda.org/volunteer](http://LWVAlameda.org/volunteer)****Action Committee**

The Action Committee is focused on the overall theme of Making Democracy Work. It has three subcommittees working on major issues: Alameda City Government, Campaign Finance Reform, and Ranked Choice Voting. Additionally, we worked on the school bond measure on the June 2022 ballot. We continue to add members and supporters.

**City Government:** The LWVA filed a complaint with the Open Government Commission in early September alleging that the Commission engaged in discussions on and took action on issues listed as “Commissioner Communications.” This practice differs from that of the City Council and is potentially confusing to the public. After discussion with the City Clerk and City Attorney’s office the League withdrew its complaint and submitted a letter to the OGC. The OGC revised its procedures based upon our concerns. The Action Committee had lengthy discussions about the development of the Encinal Terminal Property for housing and public access but was unable to come to consensus on the complicated land exchange aspect.

**Campaign Finance Reform: Allan Mann**

**The committee has discussed and revised options on the most effective approach for campaign finance reform in Alameda City elections. Limiting the flow of campaign contributions would redirect money to less trackable sources, such as independent expenditures. Since the November 2022 election is the first that limits campaign contributions to \$4,900 for Alameda City, the Committee is closely monitoring its impact and the increased use of Independent Expenditure Committees. The committee will continue its work tracking the flow of campaign funding for local elections including independent expenditures through charts and graphs. The committee will also explore ways to help candidates reach the electorate without spending more money.**

**Ranked Choice Voting:** The RCV organizing committee has set out to popularize the idea of ranked choice voting in Alameda to get more activists, supporters, and a receptive community by 2024, when we plan to place a RCV charter amendment on the ballot. The Alameda league’s website has a dedicated page for ranked choice voting along with a handout flyer. Members have been sending in letters to the editor promoting the voting method, including on social media. Tabling at events and presentations to groups are underway getting a very positive reception. We plan to participate in Alameda’s Fourth of July parade with an RCV banner. LWVC with other groups took a strong stand against an attempt to ban RCV in California; the draft Assembly Bill died in committee.

**Alameda Unified School District Facilities Bond 2022: AUSD has placed a \$298 million facilities bond on the June 7, 2022 ballot. If approved the bond will allow the District to complete work on its Master Facilities Plan. The LWVA wrote Pros and Cons and the Board took a position supporting the bond measure.**

Karen Butter and Irene Dieter, Action Committee Co-Chairs

## Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's goal is to effectively convey the work of our League. Our team generates and manages publicity through multiple media channels: website, eBlasts, news releases to print and on-line news sources, and social media.

A major highlight of this program year is our eBlasts. We crafted and sent 32 eBlasts (most on a twice-monthly basis) to members and friends of LWVA. Over 39% of recipients (including non-members) read our eBlasts, well above the industry standard of 22% for nonprofits. Our audience remains steady at 535 active subscribers, up from 518 subscribers last year this time. Thank you to our email manager, Anna Crane, for creating interesting, informative, well-researched, and timely articles within the eBlasts. We also thank the Membership Committee for their tireless efforts to sign up new and potential members to receive LWVA eBlasts.

Another major highlight is the work of Wendy Shiraki. She created eye-catching, professional designs for multiple advertising campaigns, and to promote Ranked-Choice voting in Alameda. Wendy also smoothed out several technical glitches while editing the video of complicated Zoom forum last June.



This past year, we made less Facebook posts (120 vs. 178 last year) but we still managed to grow our Facebook audience from 959 to 1,006 people who like and follow us on Facebook.com/LWVAAlameda. Each month, on average, our posts reached over 1,700 people, and achieved over 145 engagements (i.e., readers liked, clicked or shared the post they saw).

In April and May of 2022, we Zoom-hosted and advertised two LWVA community events, and helped advertise four local LWV election forums. However, these events attracted only one-half of the number that usually attend. Decreased circulation of the Alameda Sun, a main source of advertising, may have been a contributing factor. In response, we may pivot to other newspaper advertising/online sources in the future.

Please consider volunteering for the Communication Committee. We will provide whatever training you might need, and all efforts can be done from the comfort of your home on a time schedule that works for you. We need people to host public Zoom forums, publicize events, and post on social media. Just email [communications@lwvalameda.org](mailto:communications@lwvalameda.org) to volunteer.

Keasha Martindill, Communications Committee Chair

## Fund Development

The Fund Development Committee is tasked with ensuring that LWVA has the resources needed to fulfill our mission and support our programs. This is done by our Alameda league primarily through membership donations, community and foundation grants, bequests from members and supporters, matching gifts from employers and revenue from community services like HOA voting oversight.

Here is a summary of donations for the fiscal year to date:

**General Support** – LWVA members generously donated over \$4400 along with their membership dues.

**Matching Gifts** – We received two matching gifts totaling \$700 from the Chevron Foundation. Remember to ask your employer (or former employer) about the details of their matching gift program!

**Directed Donations** – Three donations were directed to support our online Civics Education game and one to support Ranked Choice Voting.

- \$6000 gift from a member's Donor Advised Fund (DAF)
- \$500 grant from the Morrison Forster Foundation
- \$250 donation from the LWV Pasadena
- \$250 donation from a member for RCV

**Bequests** - This marks the final year of a generous bequest from the estate of Patti Heimburger. This grant of \$10,000 per year for the last three years has given our league supplementary funding to support important programs in Youth Outreach as well as Voter Services. Gifts like this allow LWVA to establish and continue programs that help to fulfill our mission and leave a lasting legacy. We are so grateful to the Heimburger Family for including LWVA in their estate plan.

**Please consider the work of the League when you make a will or estate plan, take the required minimum distribution (RMD) from your employer sponsored retirement account or Individual Retirement Account (IRA) or plan your end of year gifts.**

Thank you for all you do to continue the work of LWVA to empower voters and defend democracy. It is needed now more than ever!

Sheila Durkin, Fund Development Committee Chair

## Membership

We currently have 122 members and continue to grow our membership and increase visibility in the Alameda community in the fight for democracy. Team Membership has been able to meet with new members safely outdoors, hold monthly virtual coffees and connect new members with their interests. Want to volunteer on your own schedule? If you have a couple of hours to volunteer, let us know. We try to match volunteers' interests with our various committees. If you are willing to share your skills and time with us even on a one-time basis, please let us know. Visit [lwvalameda.org/volunteer](http://lwvalameda.org/volunteer) to learn about the opportunities we offer.

Sharing the membership responsibilities between Doris and Susan has made this year a lot of fun meeting people for coffee. Our membership team is successful because of the hard work put in by Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Marian Brietbart, Ken Werner, Linda Garvin, Marilyn Ng, Sharon Schainker, Dorie Behrstock, Mari Clark and Doug Neu. The membership committee meets virtually the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 9am. Email Susan Hauser at [susanhauser1@gmail.com](mailto:susanhauser1@gmail.com).

Doris L. Gee and Susan Hauser, Membership Committee Co-Chairs

## 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 2021-2022 Season included the following:

- Climate Change Webinar on April 20, 2022. Joyce Mercado, founding Board member of Community Action for a Sustainable Alameda (CASA), discussed climate change and things we can do now to reduce its impact.
- How to Access City Documents Webinar on March 31, 2022. In August 2021, the City of Alameda implemented a new software, called NextRequest, to improve and streamline the process of submitting public records requests. A live demonstration during this webinar was provided. The software allows anyone to submit and view requests online 24 hour a day, 7 days a week. Our speakers were Lara Weisiger, City Clerk for the City of Alameda, and Susan Davis of the Alameda Unified School District.

At the time this Kit is being written, we are planning an event for June 8, 2022 that will highlight the work of the City of Alameda's Sister City Committee. We hope to have speakers from Sister City International, the City's Sister City Committee, and international representatives from Alameda's sister cities. Find details about this event and watch videos of our spring webinars at [lwvalameda.org/ce](http://lwvalameda.org/ce).

The Program Committee is eager to hear your ideas for forums for the 2022-2023 season and welcomes volunteers to help plan, organize and staff forums. Sign up to volunteer on the League's website, at [lwvalameda.org/volunteer](http://lwvalameda.org/volunteer).

Jeff Cambra, Programs Committee Chair

## Voter Service

The Voter Service Committee has eight active members -- all participating in events, activities and tasks. We partner and coordinate with LWV East Bay Area chapters to share best practices, focus on specific local races, and alert each other to changes, challenges, opportunities.

### Voter Education:

- Candidate Forums -- partnered with LWV-Bay Area and helped manage the Q&A sessions.
- Individual Voters -- answered questions and concerns.

### Affidavits:

- Alameda County Registrar of Voters (RoV) called a meeting with LWV Bay Area Voter Services to discuss strategically maintaining, but potentially reducing the number of paper affidavits distributed.
- Collected all outdated affidavits --except at the College of Alameda (CoA) due to Covid-19-- and distributed updated forms to strategic locations: USPS at South Shore and at Webster Street; and all branches of the Alameda Library; considering CoA.

### QR-Code:

- Voter registration stickers made, distributed, and used at events.
- All Bay Area Leagues want a QR Code. RoV to follow-up with Secretary of State and LWV BAE.

**Trainings & Webinars:**

- Alameda County LWV Candidate Forums – forum prep and Q&A (Carol & Red participated).
- Hollaback Training: “Bystander Intervention to Support Latinx Communities in Public Spaces,” “How to Respond to Harassment for People Experiencing Anti-Asian/American Harassment,” and “Dismantling Racism/White Supremacy and Anti Blackness.”
- National Voter Registration Day (NVRD) webinar.
- Nonprofit Vote: “Deep Canvassing” training on voter engagement (Carol participated), and “Making Your Voter Registration Drives More Culturally Competent” webinar.
- Voter Education/ Registration training class with Betty David from RoV.

**Events/Activities since July 2021** (note that COVID-19 prevented Autumn/Winter events):

- Updated marketing and promo materials.
- Event inventory --partnered with Member Services and Youth Outreach -- all materials sorted and listed.
- FAQ is in the works for voter and prospective volunteer questions.
- Tabling at April 16th Alameda Parks and Recreation Department Spring Shindig.
- Tabling at Alameda Women’s March, Oct 2021.
- Tabling at Alameda Farmers’ Market.
- RoV’s Early Voting event at South Shore.
- National Voters Registration Day 2021.

**Event Protocol:** To maximize our outreach while being efficient with the time of our members (note that smaller events likely do not need this game-plan):

- Three members haul-in, set-up event supplies, table, canopy, etc., and then maybe leave;
- Three other members arrive at the start of the event to represent LWVA; and
- Towards the end of the event, two members arrive/return to clean-up, and reorganize the inventory.

**Future Events:** New citizen ceremonies; library registration drive, street fairs; holiday events, etc.

Red Lustig and Carol Kasparek, Voter Service Committee Co-Chairs

## **Youth Outreach Services**

The Youth Outreach Services Committee is dedicated to promoting youth civic engagement. In 2021, the primary work of the committee was focused on updating and promoting our flagship free educational online quiz game, VerifyIt! (<https://verifyit.buzz>). It was designed primarily for youth aged 16-24 to teach civics, voting rights and responsibilities, and news literacy – how to separate fact from fiction online. The game is targeted to young voters and voters-to-be playing in single or multi player mode. And now, in the newest version, a teacher or presenter can use the tool to introduce these important civics topics and evaluate students’ proficiency, in a fun and engaging way. The game can be played on mobile phones, computers, and other devices.

This past year was a busy one for our committee. Some of the things we accomplished:

- We redesigned VerifyIt! to have a more robust game face that is specifically designed for teachers and presenters. The new design makes it easy for teachers to use the game and track their students’ knowledge of civics, voting, and news literacy, so that they can design better targeted curriculum. Check it out at <https://verifyit.buzz/teachers>.
- We raised over \$6,000 from multiple sources to support the game. This will enable us to pay students, teachers, and others to write game questions and help with software development needs.

- VerifyIt! is included in the menu of activities available to over 575 history and social studies teachers in Alameda County as a part of Alameda County Law Day and Law Month 2022 – a full month of civic learning activities. Law Month is held in May. This year’s theme is “Toward a More Perfect Union, The Constitution in Times of Change.” Law Month is a collaboration of the Alameda County Superior Court, the County of Alameda, and civics-related community organizations, including the LWV Alameda.
- We joined the new Alameda County Civic Learning Collaborative, a group that aspires to become the nucleus for civic learning, civic engagement, and student internships. VerifyIt! will be featured as a resource.
- We created an internship program and hosted our first student intern, Annie Liu. Annie helped us with our social media program and postings.
- We have been asked to be a part of a new effort to become a certifying organization to administer the President’s Volunteer Service Award, which is given to qualifying youth in Alameda County.
- We joined a nationwide organization that assists college and junior college students with voter registration efforts on campuses – Students Learn Students Vote coalition. VerifyIt! is included in their resources.
- We reached out to multiple chapters of the LWV in states in which we currently have voting questions. VerifyIt! is featured on over 30 LWV local websites, Facebook pages and Instagram accounts nationwide.

Next steps:

- We are recruiting members to join our committee – there are lots of volunteer efforts! Want to help with VerifyIt!? Get details at <https://tinyurl.com/mr3zdkmy>.
- We are recruiting students for a new Student Advisory Committee. The students will help provide a youth perspective on various LWV activities, including VerifyIt!
- We are planning for the next version of VerifyIt! This version will allow users to use the game in a competitive manner, sort of like a “pub trivia” game.
- We will be adding voting questions for more states (we currently have questions for 14 states plus a generic “any state” category. Our partner, the American Constitution Society, will be providing law students to assist with this project.

Sheila Durkin, Youth Outreach Services Committee Chair