

# VOTER

POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH INFORMED AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

December 2007

## Pros and Cons of Feb. 8 ballot measures discussed Jan. 23

**For a list of the state League positions, see Page 5.**

The League of Women Voters Alameda will hold a public discussion Jan. 23 at 7 p.m. on seven of the Propositions on the Feb. 8 ballot.

The event will be held at the Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave. and is free and open to the public.

☐ Proposition 91: Transportation Funding. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

☐ Proposition 92: Community Colleges. Funding. Governance.

Fees. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

☐ Proposition 93: Limits on Legislatures Terms in Office. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

☐ Proposition 94: Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.

☐ Proposition 95: Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.

☐ Proposition 96: Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.

☐ Proposition 97: Referendum Petition to Overturn Amendment to Indian Gaming Compact.



Lucile Harrison was our oldest member.

### *Lucile Harrison 1906 – 2007*

It is with great sadness that we inform you our eldest member, Lucile Harrison, passed away Dec. 8.

Lucile stayed active and interested in League and many other things well into her 100th year, and would have been 101 on the 16th of this month.

We were proud to have her as a member and thankful for her many years of service to the League and to the community.

Information on funeral arrangements will be sent by email when the family notifies us.

Please keep Lucile and her daughter, Luann DeWitt, and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

## Pros and Cons meeting Dec. 15 on Children's Hospital Parcel Tax

The County Council sponsored meeting to hear pros and cons about the Children's Hospital Parcel Tax Measures A and B will be held Dec. 15 at 10 a.m.

The location is Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive. The church parking lot is somewhat small. Other parking is available on the street around the church. Please do not park in the lots for the 7-11 or the other businesses around the church.

The Measures are, unfortunately, tremendously confusing. Measure B (please see President's Message on Page 2 for more information) qualified for the ballot based on voter initiative (signatures) and called for a 1-percent administrative fee to be paid to the County of Alameda for administrative costs. Following discussions between the county and Children's Hospital, the Board of Supervisors of Alameda County placed Measure A on the ballot. It provides for a 1.7-percent administrative fee and allows the County to be reimbursed for all actual costs of administering the program. Both the County of Alameda and Children's Hospital endorse Measure A, not Measure B. However, because it was qualified, Measure B remains on the ballot.

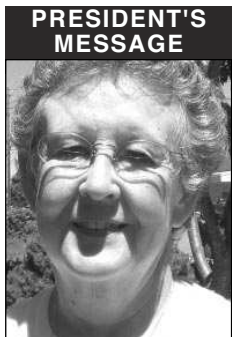
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# Holidays prove very busy as Feb. 8 election looms

One would think that the holiday time would be pretty quiet, but not for LWV Alameda this year! In addition to our planning for the Holiday Party and the upcoming Voter Service activities for the February election, our Action portfolio, sadly missing a chairperson, has heated up.

■ In addition to our calls to promote good legislation in the areas of health, redistricting and clean money, we are being asked to weigh in on community needs and ballot measures. The California ballot measures and how the League has decided to stand on them can be found on



**Kate Quick**

Page 5 of this issue. There will be two County measures, both regarding funding for the replacement of Children's Hospital in Oakland. The proposal is for a parcel tax of \$24 per household, \$100 for small businesses, and \$250 for large businesses. There are the usual exemptions for seniors and provision for an oversight committee. The two initiatives differ slightly. Measure A is on the ballot at the request of the County

Board of Supervisors; Measure B was placed on the ballot by signature gathering. The original supporters of Measure B are now supporting Measure A as it corrects some flaws in the initiative measure and yet pretty much does the same thing – raises money through a parcel tax for the replacement of the current Children's Hospital. Either measure would have to garner two thirds of the vote to pass, or if both pass, the one with the greater number of votes would prevail.

I attend County Council, a consortium of the seven Leagues in Alameda County, every other month to represent our League. At our December meeting we heard from a representative of Children's Hospital in support of Measure A, but did not hear from anyone on the opposition side. A meeting is planned for Dec. 15 to hear from the opposition side. After that, pros and cons will be finalized for each League to use, and each League will be asked to support or oppose the County Council's endorsement of the initiatives.

■ Two issues regarding Alameda Point development have come to the forefront and we will be speaking on these at a Dec. 13 meeting. One concerns the setting aside of a site for a branch library at the Point, which we can readily

support under our Library position. The other concerns the setting aside of a school site, which we also can and will support. It appears that the current proposals for both of these vital services are woefully inadequate (a storefront for the library, and a site for school administrative offices for the schools.) Gosh, do we need an Action Chair! Call me.

■ My pleading and nagging (not to mention incessant prayer and lighting of candles) has paid off for the Voter Service position which was also vacant. Joanne McKray has taken it on and is attempting to line up a co-chair, too. Thank you, Joanne for stepping up. I'm sure that now that we have a Chair, we will get many volunteers to assist with planning forums, distributing Pros and Cons and Easy Voter Guides and presenting Pros and Cons as speakers.

■ Those of you, who have still not paid your dues, please get them in ASAP. The membership committee members will be calling you, so you might save them some work by just remembering to get that check in the mail now – like today! And use those cards we sent you in October to sign up new folks too. League work is so important, many hands and hearts are needed to get it all done.

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA**  
Current and past issues of the *Voter* are posted on our website: [www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org](http://www.alameda.ca.lwvnet.org)  
The *Voter* is published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Alameda  
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## November board briefs

At its Nov. 15 meeting, the Board:

- heard a report on the transition of the treasurer's position to Earleen Hamlin;
- voted to ask the City Council to endorse SB 840, Senator Kuehl's single-payer health care bill;
- heard a report on a Clean Money meeting;
- began planning to inform the public on ballot measures in the February election;
- heard a report on our immigration Study; and
- heard plans for a coffee for new and prospective members in January.

## Members' donations deeply appreciated

We express our sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the League in the last couple months.

These are the names of those who have contributed to the LWV Education Fund:

- ☉ Karen Butter
- ☉ Ruth Belikove
- ☉ Kate Quick
- ☉ Alice Huie
- ☉ Patricia Sahadi
- ☉ Donna Vaughn
- ☉ Florence Butter
- ☉ Joanne McKray

These are the names of those who made contributions in the name of Pat Caito, our late treasurer.

- ☉ Elizabeth Rogers - in memory of Pat Caito
- ☉ Lena Tam - in memory of Pat Caito

## Thank you for renewing your memberships

Thank you for all who have sent their dues on a timely basis. We have had an excellent response this year.

If you haven't yet sent in your dues for 2008, please send a check now to LWV Alameda, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.

Individual dues are \$60, \$80 for a household membership, and \$25 for students. Dues assistance is available. Please contact Karen Scanlon at 510-523-6456 or

yakitt@aol.com.

It is so helpful to have the renewals in hand prior to the end of the year. The membership data base is "frozen" at the end of January as the per member payment is our count on Feb. 1. If you still haven't renewed by the end of the year, the membership committee will be calling to remind you, and we hope those calls will be very few this year.

## alameda.ca.lwvnet.org

This is our Alameda League Website. It is the place to go for current information about League events, back issues of the VOTER and public meetings that are of interest to League members. Check it out!

If you know of a public event of interest to your fellow league members, let Karen Scanlon know at yakitt@aol.com or 510-523-6456 and it can be posted to share.

## Help us keep info up-to-date

The League is very internet savvy on both the National and State Levels. They do a wonderful job of supporting local League websites. As a webmaster newbie, I would be at a loss to maintain the Alameda Website without the League Easy Web.

What Easy Web cannot do is provide local content that is useful, accurate and current for the Alameda League. I need your input and feedback about the Alameda League website.

Log on at alameda.ca.lwvnet.org and check it out. Is there something you are looking for and don't find? Find inaccurate or outdated information? Have a suggestion? Let me know at yakitt@aol.com, or give me a call at 523-6456. Don't forget to check out the LWV California website at ca.lwv.org and the National website at lwv.org.

## Great books that mention the League

Several recent books highlight the contributions of League members around the country!

If you're looking for a special holiday gift—or just a good read—be sure to ask about these titles at your local bookstore or library: "Soul of a Citizen" by Paul Rogat Loeb; "Getting a Grip" by Frances Moore Lappe; "The Next Form of Democracy" by Matt Leighninger.

## Handy web sites

■ Oakland League:  
[www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)

■ Bay Area League:  
[www.lwvba-ca.org](http://www.lwvba-ca.org)

■ State League:  
[www.ca.lwv.org](http://www.ca.lwv.org)

■ National League:  
[www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org)

■ LWV Smart Voter:  
[www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org)

■ LWVBA Monitor:

[www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)

■ Sen. Barbara Boxer:  
[senator@boxer.senate.gov](mailto:senator@boxer.senate.gov)

■ Sen. Diane Feinstein:  
[senator@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:senator@feinstein.senate.gov)

■ The White House:  
[www.whitehouse.gov](http://www.whitehouse.gov)

# League speaks on proposed library for Alameda Point

*SunCal Companies, Master Developer for the Alameda Point Redevelopment Project, hosted a Community Meeting Dec. 13.*

*This meeting explored the planning philosophies, constraints, approaches, and development scenarios for Alameda Point. This includes the space allocated for a new branch library. It is our current understanding of the current "plan" that the library is allotted 1,000 square feet in a store front location.*

*In our opinion, this is not a branch library but barely space for a reading room. Ideally there should be 15,000 square feet and additional space for parking.*

*Here is the League's presentation:*

I am Kate Quick, the President of the League of Women Voters of Alameda.

Our League has done a study of Library services in Alameda, and based on that study a position was arrived at by consensus of the membership. In part, the position speaks to the need for full library services for all residents of our City. Based on that position, and parts of our housing and

transportation positions, I am offering the following on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Alameda:

■ We support sufficient space for a full branch library as an integral part of the space allocated for community services at Alameda Point.

■ The space should be adequate for the full range of branch services.

■ The space should be in an area that is easily accessible by both public transportation and walking/bike paths, as well as by car. Adequate bike and car parking should be part of the allocated space.

■ The space should be fully accessible to those with special needs.

■ The branch services should be fully integrated with school library needs in the area West of Webster Street.

■ In anticipation of such a new facility becoming available, the City should include in its long range anticipated budget needs sufficient money to cover maintenance, staffing and utilities for the new space. Possible sources of funding which may require the

writing of grants, development of new revenue streams, or other funding mechanisms should be planned for and executed in a timely manner as part of an integrated effort for assurance of community amenities at the Point.

The League has noted that the current West End Branch has been much neglected and does not and cannot provide a full range of services now. There are no comprehensive branch library services being provided West of Webster Street at all. By this we mean at minimum the ability to maintain and circulate a good collection, including information on media other than books, a reading area, reference services, youth and kids programming, and some meeting space.

The Bay Farm Branch is in poor shape as well, and is also suffering from neglect. The League supports the proposed Master Plan for Library Services as a way to look at the whole situation comprehensively and plan for solutions as a whole, rather than a fragmented, piecemeal basis.

Thank you.

## Download a copy of 'Bay Area Decision Makers'

"Bay Area Decision Makers," the LWVBA Education Fund's Directory of Regional & Subregional Agencies in the San Francisco Bay Area, has been updated and is now available on-line at [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org) or [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org).

It contains agency profiles, key phone numbers, and links to agency websites. Since the links will assure up-to-the-moment information about agency board members, etc., LWVBA Ed Fund

will no longer be preparing a printed hard-copy version, as it used to go out of date very rapidly.

Blue bookmarks referencing the new on-line publication are available for distribution to those who used to get the printed version.

Contact [editor@bayareamonitor.org](mailto:editor@bayareamonitor.org) for the bookmarks.

## Get cool League stuff for holidays!

Order your Favorite Merchandise at the League's On-line Store.

The LWV Online Store is now operational and fulfilling orders.

Visit the link at <http://www.lwv.org/store> to order your favorite League merchandise and publications.





LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
**WHERE WE STAND**

FEBRUARY 5, 2008 ELECTION

**PROP 91      Transportation Funds**

**OPPOSE**

The League supports stable funding for transportation projects, but Proposition 91 is not the way to provide it. Measures like this remove the flexibility that our representatives need in crafting state budgets, especially in difficult times. Even the proponents of Prop 91 urge a NO vote on this measure, recognizing that its aims were accomplished by Prop 1A of 2006.

**PROP 92      Community Colleges: Funding, Governance, Fees**

**OPPOSE**

Proposition 92 locks in new constitutional provisions that would mandate increased spending on K-14 education without regard to the overall state budget situation. It doesn't provide new revenues and thus it threatens our ability to address the state's other pressing needs. The League respects supporters' desire for adequate, stable funding and improved governance in the community college system. However, we cannot support further restrictions on the state's ability to fund *all* the programs that serve Californians, especially in our tight budget times.

**PROP 93      Limits on Legislators' Terms in Office**

**NEUTRAL**

This initiative, by itself, makes relatively minor changes to the structure of legislative term limits. Without a package that includes reform of the redistricting process, it does not achieve meaningful improvement of the functioning of our state legislature.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **PROPS 94 through 97, Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts**, the LWVC is taking no stand on those measures.

11/27/07

**VOTE ON FEBRUARY 5!**

# Calendar of events

## *All members and the public invited*

- **Saturday, Dec. 15, 10 a.m.** – Hear pros and cons about the Children’s Hospital Parcel Tax Measures A and B, Montclair Presbyterian Church, 5701 Thornhill Drive, Oakland.( See story, Page 1).
  
- **Thursday, Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m.** – Board Meeting. Conference Room C, Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Ave.
  
- **Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7 p.m.** – Public discussion on seven of the Propositions on the Feb. 8 ballot, Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Ave. (See story, Page 1).

**Please consider making a donation of \$5 or more to our Education Fund, the lifeblood of our public outreach activities.  
No amount is too small.  
Your donations are tax deductible.**

Mail your check to:  
League of Women Voters of Alameda,  
P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501  
*Include your name, address, phone, and email and the amount you've enclosed.*

**Thank you!**

The League of Women Voters – a non-partisan political organization – encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League’s advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.

With membership comes the opportunity to work with well-informed, grassroots activists on a broad range of public policy concerns. Learn valuable, transferable skills, including how to organize and run productive meetings, write more effectively, speak in public, organize and run effective campaigns, conduct research studies, and coordinate general civic leadership training. The League invites your comments, letters and articles. They may be sent, faxed or e-mailed to the LWVA.

## Join or Renew

Cut out, fill in and mail this coupon with your check to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.

**Dues:** \$60 for a single membership; \$80 for a family membership.  
Students pay \$25, and dues assistance is available. Questions? Contact **Karen Scanlon at 523-64456 or yakitt@aol.com**  
Make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Alameda.  
Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: Local, county, Bay Area, state and national.

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