

**The League of
Women Voters of
Alameda**

P. O. Box 1645
Alameda, Ca 94501
www.LWVAlameda.org

The VOTER is published by the
LWVA Communications Committee.
Current and past issues of the VOTER
are posted on LWVAlameda.org.

Co-president: Alice Fried
alicefried89@gmail.com

Co-president: Anne Spanier
annespanierleague@att.net

VP Programs: Gayle Thomas
blaze00031@aol.com

VP Membership: Ruth Dixon-
Mueller dixonmueller@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Marian Breitbart
mbreitbart@mac.com

Secretary: Anne McKereghan
anne@youreastbayagent.com

Action Chair: Robertamarie Kiley
rkiley7@comcast.net

Budget Chair: Ted Frey
frey.ted@gmail.com

Communications: Georgia Gates
Derr t.derr@comcast.net

Fundraising: Deborah Wright
Wrightwaydesigns@hotmail.com

Voter Service: Dorothy Fullerton
dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com

Voter Editor: Mari Clark
meclark922@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We work to raise understanding of major policy issues and influence public policy through education. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and reached consensus on. In an era of proliferating powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



VOTER

**Promoting Political Responsibility through Informed
and Active Participation**

Volume 47, Number 1, January 2016

VOTER CONTENTS: President's Message p. 2; Events Calendar p. 3; Money in Politics p. 4; Youth Outreach p. 5; Nominations & MYPO p. 6; Membership updates p. 7; Book Club and Join LWVA p. 8.

**League of Women Voters of the Bay Area
Presents
Bay Area League Day 2016**

***Reinventing Bay Area Transportation
for the 21st Century***

Saturday, February 6, 2016

9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Registration and Refreshments 9:00 – 9:30 AM

Maple Hall, 13837 San Pablo Ave

Located at Alvarado Square inside the City Hall Complex
13831 San Pablo Avenue, SAN PABLO, CA

Keynote Address – Senator Jim Beall, Chair California Senate
Transportation Committee

Panel 1: - Allowance? Passing the hat for funding

Funding: are self help taxes helpful or enough?

Infrastructure: how do you prioritize upkeep vs expansion?

Social equity: Is social equity overlooked in funding proposals?

Panel 2: - Innovation & Technology - Back to the Future

Last Mile Problem: What are some of the ideas for solving this problem?

Social Equity: How do we make tech serve the underserved?

Technology: What will the highway of the future look like?

Panel 2: - Who Moved My Cheese? How and Where Do We Change the Culture?

Crystal Ball: Can agencies be agents of change or not?

Social Equity: How do we make access affordable for all?

Drones vs Semis: how do we change the way we deliver the goods?

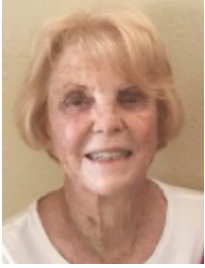
REGISTRATION:

Send check payable to LWVBA by **Friday, January 29th**, to LWVBA Attn:
BALD 436 14th St, Suite 1213, Oakland, CA 94612

NAME: _____ LOCAL LEAGUE _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL _____

REGISTRATION will be available online using PayPal after Dec. 1, 2015. The cost is \$35 prepaid (\$20 without lunch) and \$40 (\$25 without lunch) at the door. The **deadline for prepaid registration is Friday, January 29, 2016**. For more information call Alec MacDonald (510) 839-1608 or www.lwvbayarea.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anne Spanier, Co-President
League of Women Voters of Alameda

As the New Year begins we at LWVA have much to be grateful for. Our League has grown in the last few years adding many active and energetic new members. Some of our long-time members, feeling the energy, are returning to their previous activism. In addition, our financial picture is extremely good. We have also added a communications infrastructure thanks to the vision of our co-president, Alice Fried. As a result, we are formulating many new ideas that make our League more relevant to our community.

The historic mission of the League was to secure women's suffrage and to help women become knowledgeable voters by educating them through League membership. While the League has extended its reach into advocacy over the years as well as advancing voter's rights for both men and women, getting people to exercise those rights remains its primary mission. The year 2016 is a presidential election year and for LWVA that means getting voters to the polls.

This is a potentially historic year for the nation with the possibility of a woman as the nominee of a major political party. In addition, a recent California law mandates all state propositions be placed on the November ballot. We may have 30 or more propositions to read and understand. A herculean task awaits our League. We need all of our members to recognize the challenge facing our Voter Service Chair, Dorothy Fullerton, and to come forward to help.

In June we will see the Open Primary election for state offices and some local non-state elections. The fall will be busy with Candidate Forums and multiple Pros and Con presentations of the State Propositions.

Our major task, however, remains motivating the voters to register and to vote on Election Day—Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

Every year we are reminded of what's at stake during an election. This year it is more important than ever because of the recent low voter turnout due to voter apathy. We must stress the importance of voting for ballot measures that are important for the good of our communities. And we must not let the polarization and coarsening language of our election season blunt the hope that capable candidates will have our nation's best interests at heart and that voting will be our best strategy for our nation's future.

COMMUNICATIONS SUBMISSIONS

The Communications Committee communicates the work of the League to LWVA members and the community. We generate and disseminate publicity through multiple media channels. To submit material for distribution please contact Georgia Gates Derr at t.derr@comcast.net or call 263-9075. **The VOTER** is published monthly on the 1st; submission deadline is the 25th of the preceding month. **Eblasts** are sent bi-monthly on the 1st and the 15th; submission deadlines are the 25th and the 10th. **Website** updates (LWVAlameda.org) are aligned with eblasts. Our **Facebook** page is updated almost daily at <https://www.facebook.com/LWVAlameda>. **Let us hear from you!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit LWVAAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

Tues. Jan. 19th
12:00-4:00 PM

Money in Politics Consensus Meeting
Berkeley Public Library South Branch, 1901 Russell Street.

The Berkeley South library is 1½ blocks from Ashby BART. See Money in Politics on p. 4 of this VOTER for information about this joint meeting with the Oakland and Berkeley leagues and required reading.

Thu. Jan. 21st
7:00-9:00 PM

LWVA Board meeting: all members are welcome to attend.
Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor)

Mon. Jan. 25th
3:00 PM

Book Club: Applebee's Restaurant, South Shore Center
See Book Club report on p. 8 of this VOTER.

Thu. Jan. 28th
7:00-9:00 PM

LWVA General Membership Meeting
Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor)

Learn about LWVA's upcoming election activities, community forums, student debate scholarship, and other activities. This is also our annual "positions review" meeting: review League positions on important national and local issues (the latter updated since June 2015). Please join us and share your ideas!

Thu. Feb. 4th
7:00-9:00 PM

COMMUNITY FORUM with State Senator LONI HANCOCK
"What Lies Ahead"
Mastick Social Center, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue

Join Loni Hancock for a discussion highlighting some of the accomplishments of the 2015 Legislative Session, including the new [Death with Dignity Law](#), and what lies ahead for 2016. Senator Hancock has served in the Assembly and Senate since 2002 and is retiring in 2016. Bring your friends!

Sat. Feb. 6th
9:30 AM-2:30 PM

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY:
"Reinventing Bay Area Transportation for the 21st Century"
Maple Hall, 13837 San Pablo, City Hall Complex, SAN PABLO

Keynote: Sen. Jim Beall, Chair, CA Senate Transportation Committee. For information on registration see Bay Area League Day front page of this VOTER.

Mon. Feb. 22nd
3:00 PM

Book Club: Applebee's Restaurant, South Shore Center
See Book Club report on p. 8 of this VOTER.

Thu. Feb. 25th
7:00-9:00 PM

LWVA Board meeting: all members are welcome to attend.
Alameda Hospital, Conference Room C (first floor)

Thu. March 31st
5:30-7:30 PM

"MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS" (MYPO): Annual Fundraiser
Harbor Bay Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Road

Speed date your local representatives! Raffle, silent auction, food, drink, and community celebration. Tickets \$10 at the door or through LWVA members. Everyone in the community is invited!

Sat. June 25th
11:30 AM- 2:30 PM

LWVA Annual Meeting and luncheon
Place to be announced.

LWVA ACTION:
MONEY IN POLITICS\$: JOIN THE CONSENSUS DISCUSSION!

Is our democracy in danger of corruption by uncontrolled political spending? Does public apathy and cynicism about the undue influence of big money cause low voter turnout? How can we balance free speech rights with equal access rights?

With a major election just a year away, the League of Women Voters US is studying *Money in Politics*. Learn about "dark" money -- how does it work, what is legal and what isn't, what can we do about it? – and participate in forming the LWVUS position statement. Visit <http://www.lwvoakland.org/moneyinpol.html> for more info.

Take the [pop quiz](#) to see how much you really know about PACs, SUPER PACs, and dark money.

LWV Alameda will join LWVO and LWVBAE to discuss and come to consensus on three key issues. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 19, 2016** in Berkeley. The discussion will include members from the 3 leagues, but each league will record and submit its own consensus report to its board and then LWVUS.

Here's a quick guide to add your voice to MONEY IN POLITICS Consensus:

1. Mark your calendar: Tuesday, January 19, 2016, 12 - 4pm Money In Politics Consensus Meeting.
Berkeley Public Library South Branch 1901 Russell St. 1-1/2 blocks from Ashby BART
Attendees can bring brown bag lunches

2. Let Karen Butter know (769-9634, karenbutter@comcast.net) if you want to join a carpool to the meeting. She and Felice will coordinate drivers and riders.

3. Read the following articles to prepare for discussion and consensus of the three parts on Money and Politics:

Part I - Democratic Values and Interests

[Evidence of Spending's Impact on Electoral and Legislative Outcomes](#)
[Corruption and Rationales for Regulating Campaign Finance](#)

Part II - First Amendment protections

[The Debate : Can Government Regulate Money in Politics ?](#)
[Hard, Soft and Dark Money](#)

Part III - Methods for Regulating Campaign Finance

[Options to Reform Money in Politics](#)
[Enforcement of Federal Campaign Finance Law](#)

Message from Alice Fried on YOUTH OUTREACH

As co-president of the Alameda League, I am always cognizant of the League of Women Voters mission—to provide information on issues and policies that affect the common good that makes our democracy work. Recently, co-president, Anne Spanier and I presented the history of the League to a group of students at ACLC, and frankly, I, along with the students, learned a lot from Anne about the women who suffered to make the vote possible for us all. However, I was most impressed with the grit these women showed afterwards in creating an environment that provided new voters with information to enable them to make wise decisions at the polls.

I believe that the League's goal to empower citizens to shape better communities must evolve and extend its outreach. Our youth from grade school to college should learn to identify with the League's ability to build citizen participation in the democratic process; to promote positive solutions to public policy issues through education and advocacy. Issues that range from the process of selecting Supreme Court nominations to the hiring police officers; from maintaining a woman's right to choose to the everyone's right to vote; from exchanging inequality and hate to fairness and equal protection; from scorning diverse heritages to respecting humanity.

To that end, the LWVA is instituting a Debate Scholarship Award to be granted to Alameda students who participate in a Pro and Con Debate not unlike the studies the LWV provides to voters on policy issues. The scholarship is supported by grants from the Rotary Club, the Bank of Marin and Golden Leaf Energy as well as contributions from our members. The goal is to empower Alameda students with critical thinking skills, voting information, and a sense-of-community mindset—the pillars of democracy. The winner will receive a \$1000 scholarship with \$500 for the runner up. Further donations are needed to provide a small stipend to the teachers and counselors who work after-school with the student participants.

Two teams from Girls Inc. representing Alameda, Encinal and Asti High Schools will participate in the pilot debate in Spring 2016 on a topic to be selected by LWVA. The goal is make the debate an annual event for our League. Please watch the VOTER and MailChimp for further details. In the meantime, I need commitments from members interested in working with counselors to prepare the students to debate. Contact me at alicefried89@gmail.com if you are interested in helping our students to go out into the world as committed and informed participating citizens.



LWVA Board & Committee News

Nominating Committee is Looking for Leaders!

The nominating committee for 2016 met in December to begin identifying individuals who will provide the leadership that will keep the Alameda League a vibrant force in making democracy work. We particularly encourage new members to come forward. To find out more about what our leadership team does, our website has [job descriptions](#) posted.

If you, or someone you know about, would like to learn more about leadership needs, or join the team in any capacity, please contact one of the nominating committee members Karen Scanlon, yakitt@aol.com, Ruth Dixon-Mueller dixonmueller@yahoo.com, Helen Sause h@hsause.com, Dorie Behrstock dgbintl@gmail.com, and Ted Frey frey.ted@gmail.com.

“Meet Your Public Officials” (MYPO 2016)

Please save the date (Thursday, March 31, 2016, 5:30 – 7:30 pm) for this year’s Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO 2016) at Harbor Bay Community Center!

Your **MYPO 2016** fundraising committee, headed by Deborah Wright, wants to surpass our record-setting 2015 event which netted \$5,900 for LWVA’s work. More than 150 celebrants and 30 local officials gathered at the Community Center of Harbor Bay in April 2015 to enjoy drinks and appetizers contributed by local restaurants and LWVA members, bid on 50 donated raffle and auction items, and “speed-date” 15 of Alameda’s elected and appointed representatives in four-minute conversations.

You can help make MYPO2016 a big success by:

- Soliciting silent auction and raffle items (think big!);
- Donating or soliciting wine and beer for MYPO 2016;
- Volunteering for the MYPO committee to work before or at the event;
- Bringing finger foods to MYPO 2016;
- Purchasing the five \$10 MYPO tickets we will send you.

Contact the MYPO 2016 committee:

Deborah Wright, Chair, wrightwaydesigns@hotmail.com (invitations and speed-dating); Alice Fried, alicefried89@gmail.com (program); Marian Breitbart, mbreitbart@mac.com (ticket sales, volunteers), Doris Gee, dorisgee48@gmail.com (auction and raffle items), Ruth Dixon-Mueller, dixonmueller@yahoo.com (food & wine donations), Jon Spangler, jonswriter@att.net (publicity)

LWVA Membership updates:

Renewals: As of December 27th, 77 of our 138 members have renewed for 2016. *Mil gracias* to those who have done so, and a gentle reminder to those who haven't (yet). **You can renew online at** LWVAAlameda.org/join_form.html or mail your check (\$70 individual, \$97 family) to LWVA, PO Box 1645, Alameda CA 94501. Final deadline for 2016 renewals is January 31st.

New members: **Kimberley Foster Rogers** (fosterkimberley@aol.com) and **Marti Burchell** (oahumartib@msn.com) joined us in November. Welcome Kimberley and Marti!

Celebrating LWVA's founders: Alice Fried hosted a delightful holiday party at her lagoon-side home on Dec. 13th. Over 40 LWVA members and guests enjoyed great food, wine and conversation. Special toasts to nine "founding mothers" of LWVA in 1978 who are still active members: Donna Vaughn (first president), Sally Faulhaber, Lynn Groh, Alice Hui, Honora Murphy, Joan Naranhara, Kate Quick, Liz Rogers and Li Volin.

Corrections to the Nov. 2015 updated Membership Directory you received in your renewal packet:

Julie Conner: phone (858) 736-6557

Kathryn Sáenz Duke: email saludforall@gmail.com

Gray Harris: phone (510) 552-6521

Rita James: phone (510) 337-8604

Dave Needle: phone (510) 409-6004

Please add two members whose names were inadvertently deleted (apologies!):

Helen Sause: phone (510) 521-3940, email h@hsause.com

Pat Sahadi: phone (510) 521-1583; email pmsrps@aol.com

Introducing your Board members (a few at a time)



Gayle Thomas, Program VP Moving from Washington State to Alameda thirteen years ago, I am continuing my now 23 year career in the Fire Service as a Fire Captain. I have a wonderful family including two young children and enjoy supporting causes I truly believe in. I hold a strong interest in supporting young women to strive for their goals and encouraging everyone to vote as educated citizens-which naturally has led me to active participation in our League, as well as serving as a board director on several other non-profit organizations. I had served two years as Membership chair for our Alameda League before moving into the position of Vice President of Programs. I love to travel, exercise and eat chocolate mousse (not necessarily in that order).



Georgia Gates Derr, Communications Chair During a 30-year stint in Massachusetts I was a long-time member of the League of Women Voters, serving in numerous local and state leadership positions. As a former US History teacher it was a joy to rear our three children in an area of the country so rich in history that was also the birthplace of America's independence. I also worked for the Freedom Trail Foundation in Boston and served as an elected member of the Dover-Sherborn Regional School Board. As a native Californian and a graduate of UC Santa Barbara as well as CSU Fullerton, I am thrilled that my husband and I have returned to the Golden State, where I am continuing my LWV work as Communications Chair in Alameda--learning about new technologies and social media on the fly while watching over my grandson.

BOOK CLUB

The LWVA book club meets at 3 p.m. on the 4th Monday of every month in the back room at Applebee's in South Shore Center. Please join us! The discussions are always lively. Please contact Felice Zensius (865-4329, felicez@ymail.com). The following are our book selections for the next three months:

January 25th: "Founding Mothers: The Women who Raised our Nation" by Cokie Roberts. Cokie provides an intimate and illuminating look at the fervently patriotic and passionate women whose tireless pursuits on behalf of their families and their country proved just as crucial to the forging of a new nation as the rebellion that established it.

February 22nd: "Infidel" by Ayaan Hirsi Ali. In this profoundly affecting memoir, the internationally renowned author tells her astonishing life story from her traditional Muslim childhood in Somalia, Saudi Arabia and Kenya to her intellectual awakening and activism in the Netherlands and her current life under armed guards in the West.

March 28th: "Tortilla Curtain" by T.C. Boyle is a novel about Mexican immigrants and how they live in the wealthy hills of Los Angeles. A good read and very topical.

Join the League or Renew Your Membership Today!



Name _____

Other Names _____
(if a family membership)

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

\$70 Single Membership \$97 Family Membership free Student Membership (full-time, voting age, enroll by mail only) Dues year is Jan 1 – Dec 31. Dues assistance available for those on limited income: e-mail membership@LWVAlameda.org or call 865-2439. Printed and mailed VOTER ADD \$10 (e-mailed newsletter is free).

Please make check payable to LWV Alameda and mail to: LWVA, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.
Membership dues are tax deductible. To pay online, visit LWVAlameda.org/join.html.

Consider a Donation to the League

Please consider sending an additional tax-deductible donation to LWV Alameda, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501. We count on your support to do our education and advocacy work in the community.