

League of Women Voters of Alameda
Minutes of the Program Planning Meeting
Saturday January 27, 2018, 1-3 PM, Alameda Hospital

Attending: Board: Georgia Gates Derr, Karen Butter, Keasha Martindill, Doris Gee, Felice Zensius, Sally Faulhaber, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Kate Quick. LWVA members: Susan Hauser, Mari Clark, Kathryn Saenz Duke, Karen Guthrie, Bill Smith, Liz Rogers, Helen Harris. Visitor: Joe Crcar.

Handouts: Summary of Public Policy Positions LWVUS (4 pages); LWVUS Program Planning Report Form (2 pages, to be sent to LWVUS as consensus recommendation of LWVA)

1. **Introduction:** Georgia Gates Derr reviewed key features of the League and the program planning process as background. Factors to be considered in recommending issues for emphasis/priorities include current League positions; resources needed for initiatives (money, volunteers, staff time); and identification of other organizations working on the issues and potential coalitions.

2. **National:** LWVUS is recommending continued support of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work with four priority areas: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting for 2018-2020. Georgia read a detailed description of federal and state legislation, policies and practices that LWVUS has been addressing in these areas in the past two years. The group concluded with some discussion that this work needs to be supported and strengthened given the current political climate. **Decision:** Georgia will complete the LWVUS Form indicating our support for the proposed program focus; adding no additional program recommendations; and responding to questions about how LWVA uses League positions in our education and advocacy work, with input from others. Report to be submitted to LWVA Board Feb. 15 for review and to LWVUS by March 1.

3. **Bay Area:** Sally Faulhaber reported on the Bay Area League's programs in regional government, environment/natural resources, hazardous materials, social policy and transportation. Regional government will be the focus of Bay Area League Day on Sat. Feb. 3, 2018 at Laney College. Several participants raised additional issues of interest, e.g., does the Bay Area League have a position on the handling of coal in the Port of Oakland or on the transparency of Port Authority decision-making? Also, what is the impact of local zoning restrictions on the allocation of mandates in the regional "fair share" housing plan? **Decision:** Sally Faulhaber and Kate Quick to follow up and submit recommendations to LWVA Board Feb. 15 for submission to LWVBA by March 12.

4. **Alameda:** Karen Butter reported on LWVA's current work with campaign finance and transparency in local elections, including a planned forum on Feb. 22. Felice Zensius reported on the current status of the "Make It Fair" initiative to reform Prop. 13 property taxation and on other measures on the 2018 June and November ballots. Two additional proposals were made. The first is to amend LWVA's position on housing to include a recommendation on Universal Design (accessibility) features in new units. **Decision:** refer to Juelle-Ann Boyer and Beth Kenny (Chair of Commission on Disability) to craft language for Board consideration in May and vote at the June Annual Meeting. The second proposal is to involve LWVA with other local organizations in raising the visibility of homelessness in Alameda, and to consider/recommend an overnight "Warming Station" similar to that adopted in San Leandro. **Decision:** refer to Liz Rogers and Helen Harris to suggest what specific role LWVA might play and report back to the Board.

Two additional local issues were raised but not pursued at this time: whether LWVA is interested in investigating the possibility of holding district rather than at-large elections for Alameda City Council (Karen Butter), and in monitoring the ratio of market-rate to "affordable" housing in new construction considered/approved by the Planning Commission (Bill Smith).

Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Acting Secretary