

League of Women Voters of Alameda
General Membership Meeting: Program Planning
January 25, 2020 1-3 PM, Alameda Hospital Room A

Attending: Board members: Susan Hauser (presiding), Anne McKereghan, Keasha Martindill, Sally Faulhaber Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Karen Butter, Anna Crane, William (Bill) Smith, Laura Kinley. Other members: Andrew Huntoon, Susanne La Faver, Sharon Schainker, Neil Rubenstein, Robert Raburn, Li Volin. Visitor: Kate Lenhardt.

Handouts: From LWVUS: 1) Recommended Program: The Campaign for Making Democracy Work; 2) Voter Representation/Electoral Systems Position: Recommended by LWVUS for Adoption via Concurrence, LWVUS Convention 2020; 3) ...Concurrence, Informational Quick Summary; 4) ... Concurrence: Why? Terminology; 5) ... Concurrence: Pro and Con Considerations. These documents can be requested from susanhauser1@gmail.com or at www.lwv.org [need to complete URL]

Introduction: Susan Hauser explained the purpose of the program review: by March 1, 2020, LWVA needs to respond to the biannual request from LWVUS to local Leagues for input on national priorities (document 1) and on the proposed concurrence on electoral systems (documents 2-5).

Recommended Program (document 1): The LWVUS Board recommends that “Program 2020-2022 continue to focus on the four core elements from 2018-2019 of the Campaign for Making Democracy Work,” i.e., redistricting, voting rights, improving elections, and campaign finance/money in politics. Following discussion of each of these areas as they apply nationally and locally, motion was made/seconded and approved to *support the Recommended Program*. Susan will advise LWVUS.

Addendum: Sally Faulhaber passed on a request from the California League that we urge LWVUS to add the topic of “climate emergency” to the national program. Following discussion of climate change vs. climate emergency, motion was made/seconded and approved to *add Climate Emergency to our report to LWVUS*.

Voter Representation/Electoral Systems concurrence (documents 2-5).

A request for concurrence is sent to local Leagues from national, state or local Leagues to invite agreement, with a new position to be presented at the annual convention. The request we discussed comes from LWVUS. The “position in brief” is to “support electoral systems at each level of government that encourage participation, are verifiable and auditable and enhance representation of all voters,” with 8 bullet points.

Members discussed various points in the documents and how they might apply nationally and locally. Concerns were expressed about unclear terms, overly general language, internal contradictions, failure to address election security, and the intended purpose of the proposed position (what IS it?). Motion was made, seconded and approved to report to LWVUS that *LWVA does not support the concurrence position* because it is vaguely written and does not adequately address the issues.

Local Programs: The selection of proposed areas of emphasis for LWVA for FY 2020-2021, which is to be submitted to members at the June annual meeting, was deferred to future Board meetings.

Ruth Dixon-Mueller
Secretary