

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA
PROGRAM PLANNING MINUTES, January 25, 2025
Alameda Hospital

Board members present: Anna Crane, presiding; Ashley Lorden, Susan Hauser, Keasha Martindill, Linda Lyons-Justus, Paul Beusterien. **Other members present:** Irene Dieter, Neil Rubenstein, Richard Bangert, Sally Faulhaber, Karen Butter, Li Volin, Paula Rainey, Donna Vaughn.

Call to Order: Anna Crane called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM. We will align on priorities for July 1 2025-June 30 2026. We amended the agenda to begin with Local Priorities.

Bylaws: Irene moved, Donna seconded, and we approved amending our bylaws (Article VII, Membership Meetings and Voting Rights, Section 3 Voting) to include: “Those eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting must be dues-paying members as of the notice date for the Annual Meeting.”

Local Priorities: Our local Issues for Emphasis for last year, 2024-25 were: “Ranked Choice Voting”, “campaign finance”, “civics education and voter engagement for youth”, “transparency and good government” and “mitigating the effect of climate change”. Paula discussed the issue of free speech, and how we might continue educating the public on its importance, how it has been challenged and upheld in the past, and the current tools and structures to support it. We discussed what positions and priorities might support this work. The US League affirmed the right to peaceful protest in a statement on 5/2/24. Based on that, we adopted a new local issue “free speech”. We discussed RCV, which our league didn’t work as actively on this year, though our members did make a difference on closely related issues serving on the Alameda County Board of Supervisors’ Elections Commission. We decided to group efforts on that and campaign finance under a broadened issue “electoral reform to include Ranked Choice Voting and campaign finance”. We also updated language for consistency “mitigation of the effect of climate change”. We unanimously approved these Issues for Emphasis:

- Free speech
- Electoral reform to include Ranked Choice Voting and campaign finance
- Civics education and voter engagement for youth
- Transparency and good government
- Mitigating the effect of climate change

State Priorities: The LWVUS continues the Campaign for Making Democracy Work, which includes as issues “voting rights”, “improving elections”, “money in politics”, “redistricting”, “direct election of the president by popular vote”. We may suggest up to 3 issues for the LWVC to emphasize. We feel it’s important for the State to continue to focus on a previous issue “climate change and sustainability, including water resource focus”. We also talked about “free speech” and “fair representation in elections” being valuable to focus on at the

state level. Because we have to choose only 3 issues to propose, a suggestion was made to consolidate several important efforts (including housing and homelessness and criminal justice reform) into “uplifting and protecting vulnerable and marginalized groups”. We combine points to read “promoting fair representation in elections, especially protecting vulnerable groups”. We unanimously approved these suggested issues:

- Climate change and sustainability, including water resource focus
- Free speech
- Promoting fair representation in elections, especially protecting vulnerable groups

Anna agrees to send our Program Planning survey responses.

Paula volunteered to draft a note of appreciation to the Alameda Theater and the filmmaker who produced the pro-democracy shorts we aired in November.

We discussed information and questions to include in ChapterSpot for members, and decided to include language that by attending events, people consent to have their photo/video captured and used, unless they inform the event organizer when they arrive to opt out. We proposed questions about interest in committees, special skills, and preferred meeting/event time. Susan will draft question language.

Irene shared that our city plans to adopt an urban forest plan soon, which our advocacy group will review and weigh in on. We recently sent comments on the CARP updates, and we’ll host a program on Climate Change on 4/22.

Anna adjourned the meeting at 12:07pm.