

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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

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The League of Women Voters 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 on which a consensus has been reached. 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.

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VOTER

Promoting Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation

Volume 50, Number 1, January-February 2018

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ALAMEDA

**Invites You to a Free Community Forum
Elections 2018:**

**The Cost of Campaigning in Alameda
(and how to follow the money)**



Thursday February 22, 7:00-9:00 PM
Phoenix Workspace, 2315 Lincoln Avenue
(north side of Library) Alameda

*What does it cost to run for local office in Alameda?
Our panel explains what candidates spend, how they raise
the money, and how you can keep track of it all.*

Info: www.lwvalameda.org/calendar.html

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- FRI. JAN. 5**
5:30pm-7:00pm **FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL DINNER.** La Penca Azul (on Bay Farm), 891 Island Drive #B, Alameda. Join members and guests for good food and conversation! RSVP by 4 JAN: anne@youreastbayagent.com or 407-0175.
- TUE. JAN. 16**
9:00am-10:00am **WEBINAR. Online.** Members, the LWVC needs your input on League leadership matters. Register here: <https://goo.gl/DrnAMw>.
- THU. JAN. 18**
7:00pm-9:00pm **LWVA BOARD MEETING.** Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- SAT. JAN. 20**
10:00am-3:00pm **WOMEN'S MARCH OAKLAND HEAR OUR VOTE.** Lake Merritt Amphitheater (Between 12th St & 1st Ave.) Oakland. The march will start at the amphitheater and participants will march towards 14th street to Frank Ogawa/Oscar Grant Plaza. Want to join the LWVA group? RSVP: president@lwvalameda.org.
- SAT. JAN. 27**
1:00pm-3:00pm **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PROGRAM PLANNING.** Alameda Hospital, Room A (second floor). All League members are welcome to attend a grass-roots exercise to help set priorities for national and local League education and advocacy.
- MON. JAN. 29**
3:00pm-4:30pm **BOOK CLUB. Dark Money: The Hidden History of the Billionaires Behind the Rise of the Radical Right**, by Jane Mayer. Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Ctr. Information felicez@ymail.com.
- FRI. FEB. 2**
5:30pm-7:00pm **FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL DINNER. Place TBA.** Join members and guests for good food and conversation! No-host. RSVP by Feb. 1 to anne@youreastbayagent.com or 407-0175.
- SAT. FEB. 3**
9:30am-3:00pm **BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY 2018.** Laney College, 900 Fallon St. Oakland. Purchase \$40 at the door ticket or \$35 advanced ticket at <http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-league-day-regional-governance>.
- THU. FEB. 15**
7:00pm-9:00pm **LWVA BOARD MEETING.** Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- THU. FEB. 22**
7:00pm-9:00pm **THE COST OF CAMPAIGNING IN ALAMEDA.** Phoenix Alameda, 2315 Lincoln Avenue, Alameda. Our panel explains what it costs to run a local campaign, how candidates raise the money and how you can keep track of it all.
- MON. FEB. 26**
3:00pm-4:30pm **BOOK CLUB. The Distance Between Us**, a memoir by Reyna Grande. Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Ctr. Information: felicez@ymail.com.



President's Message – by Georgia Gates Derr

Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy. I love the League's new slogan; four simple words that remind me why I joined the League. As a member, I know I belong to a network on a city, county, state and national level that is committed to making democracy work. I recognize the strength of our numbers and I know the League is making a difference. As an example, below are a few actions from the 2016-2018 Campaign for Making Democracy Work:

- Sent 21 Action Alerts resulting in 75,300 letters to Congress, more than 25,340 petition signatures, and close to 10,000 contacts with the Executive Branch.
- Lobbied both the House and Senate for restoration of the Voting Rights Act.
- Spoke out actively against the new 'Election Integrity Commission.'
- Filed an amicus brief in the case of Gill v. Whitford, which was heard by the Supreme Court regarding the constitutionality of partisan gerrymandering.
- Mounted challenges to state laws designed to make it harder for people to vote.
- Lobbied against Congressional attempts to eliminate public financing for presidential campaigns and supported the Honest Ads Act.

You can learn more at: <https://goo.gl/3iLJFb>. We know that democracy is slow and cumbersome; it takes commitment and energy, so let's roll up our sleeves and get to work!

General Membership Meeting: Program Planning – by Georgia Gates Derr

Let your voice be heard! Members are urged to attend this important meeting for the LWVUS and LWVA (see calendar above for details). We will engage in the process of Program Planning to recommend Education and Advocacy priorities for the LWVUS and our local League. Every two years, local and state Leagues engage in the process of priority setting. As members, we have the opportunity and the responsibility to indicate which issues we believe the LWVUS should emphasize in 2018-2020.

What is Program Planning?

For the League, the term 'Program' describes the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at every level of government. It is an essential tool for focusing the League's work to ensure that resources are engaged where they have the most impact. Program planning is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member can influence the selection of priority issues at each level of government.

The process starts for us in Alameda on 27 January with our meeting. We'll discuss what should be the top priorities for education and action for the LWVUS for the next two years, and whether we would like any positions updated or new studies initiated. We'll do likewise for the LWVA for 2018-2019.

The National Program

On 15 February, the LWVA Board will vote on the recommendations emerging from the January meeting and send our report to LWVUS by 1 March. The LWVUS Program Committee will review all the responses from local and state Leagues. In April 2018, the LWVUS Board will develop a Proposed Program. This process culminates in the delegates' adoption of the LWVUS Program after the National Convention, 28 June-1 July 2018. Note that State and National conventions meet every other year.

Our Local Program

Based on LWVA Bylaws, members may make a local Program recommendation to the Board no later than two months prior to the Annual Meeting. The LWVA Board will consider all recommendations and formulate a proposed 2018-2019 Program at the 17 May Board Meeting. At our Annual Meeting (on 23 June) after debate and discussion, a majority vote of those local league members present will be required for the proposed 2018-2019 Program to be adopted.

Current Issues for Emphasis

The LWVUS adopted the following issues for emphasis at its national convention in June 2016:

- The Campaign for Making Democracy Work, a comprehensive program to advance the core democracy issues of voter protection and mobilization, election reform, money in politics, constitutional amendment, and redistricting.
- Climate and environmental protection, immigration reform, and health care as second-tiered legislative priorities.

The LWVC adopted the following issues for emphasis at its state convention in June 2017:

- Making Democracy Work in California, a broad program with a focus on election reform, voting rights, expanding the electorate, and money in politics.
- Natural resources, including climate change, water, and land use/CEQA.
- Response to changing federal policies and budget actions that have an impact on California in areas such as health care, immigration, the environment, and tax reform.

The LWVA adopted money in politics and open government (the local Sunshine Ordinance) as issues for emphasis at its annual meeting in June 2017.

How to Prepare for the LWVA Program Planning Meeting?

All members are asked to review the following.

- LWVUS National Positions and LWVC State Positions at: <https://goo.gl/YA3XYR>.
- LWVUS Impact on Issues 2016-2018 at: <https://goo.gl/P5FgQH>.
- LWVA Local Positions at: <https://www.lwvalameda.org/positions.html>.

Membership Update – by Doris Gee

Welcome to new members Jennifer and Roger Mosier, Kathyleen Schumacher, Ruth Smiler, and student Chiu Lam Chak.

If you have not done so, please send in your membership check or renew online by 15 January. Your dues (\$70 for individuals and \$97 for families) help us to **empower voters and defend democracy!**

Our next membership meeting will be at Peet's Coffee (1901 Webster Street, Alameda) on Wednesday, 24 January at 9am. All are welcome. If you enjoy meeting new members, come join the team. Contact me at: dorisgee48@gmail.com.





Action Committee Updates – from Karen Butter and Felice Zensius

Make it Fair – based on LWVC eBlast of 21 Dec

The Make it Fair coalition (which includes the LWVC) has filed a ballot initiative to close the corporate loophole in Proposition 13. The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 would create a "split roll" tax. This means non-residential, non-agricultural property will be reassessed on a regular basis. An estimated increase of \$11 billion per year in California would go directly to funding our schools and local governments. This initiative would also create property tax system that would enable small businesses to compete on a level-playing field with large corporations.

Please support Make it Fair by signing the petition. Details on where and when will be announced soon on our website, eBlasts, and Facebook page. You can also support Make it Fair by volunteering to gather signatures for this initiative in our community. To do so, contact Felice Zensius at felicez@ymail.com.

Find more information at makeitfairca.com, read the initiative at <https://goo.gl/7HLz6k> (cut/paste link into your browser), and join the LWVC Google Group at <https://goo.gl/z732Ud> for updates. **Help us place this initiative on the statewide ballot for November 2018!**

Rent Stabilization Charter Amendment and State 2018 Ballot Measures

Alameda residents will see a rent stabilization measure charter amendment on their 6 November 2018 ballot. Our City Council will review the ballot measure language in January.

So far, four state measures have qualified for the June election, but most will appear on the November ballot. Track state propositions at: <https://goo.gl/XfwdRn> (cut/paste link into your browser).

Local Campaign Disclosure

Karen Butter met with the Alameda City Clerk to discuss four campaign finance issues. State laws or regulations govern the first three.

- *Disclosure of political ad sponsors.* The California Disclose Act (AB 249), which amended the Political Reform Act, now applies. Generally, the law requires that ads include a "paid for by" disclaimer, and name the top three donors of \$50,000 or more (if applicable) to a committee. One exception is that candidate committees are not required to place a "paid for by" disclaimer on newspaper ads. See a before and after AB 249 comparison chart at <https://goo.gl/PuRfxh>.
- *Requiring identification for paid petition circulators.* This is governed by California Elections Code § 101. A prominent notice must be placed on all petitions that state you have the right to ask whether the circulator is paid or a volunteer. No badge is required.
- *Requirements for referendum (i.e. direct vote by electorate on a proposal).* Article II, Section 9, of the California Constitution sets the rules for this process. No prior notification to a governmental body is required before collecting signatures. Read at: <https://goo.gl/WcmGBG>.
- *Requirements for council members to recuse themselves if they have accepted money from a donor for an issue that comes before the council.* There are restrictions that apply to candidates for elective public office and others. But, this does not apply to city councils. Find out more about California's pay-to-play contribution restrictions here: <https://goo.gl/cLHGHN>.

The Cost of Campaigning in Alameda (and how to follow the money)

Michele Ellson, with assistance from Juelle Ann Boyer, will host this free, public forum on 22 February. They will present campaign finance data from recent past local elections. More information will be published about this event in the coming weeks on our website, eBlasts, and our Facebook page.



Women's Suffrage & Women in Government Quiz – by Keasha Martindill

1. What year did California approve suffrage? See the answer at: <https://goo.gl/DPu50A> and read a short historical essay on the suffrage campaign in California.
2. Why were Western states the first to grant women the right to vote? Go to: <https://goo.gl/6CB51k>.
3. Who fought against women getting the right to vote and why? (Visit: <https://goo.gl/sZnWdv>.)
 - a. Brewers and distillers who assumed that women would vote for prohibition.
 - b. Businesses that employed children because they feared women would eliminate child labor.
 - c. Anti-suffrage activists (men and women) who argued that politics would sully women.
 - d. All of the above.
4. What year(s) were declared the “Year of the Woman” due to anticipated gender parity gains in the U.S. government? The history is here: <https://goo.gl/guwqpi>.
 - a. 1966, 1990, and 2008.
 - b. 1992.
 - c. All of the above, plus 1984, 2010 and 2016.

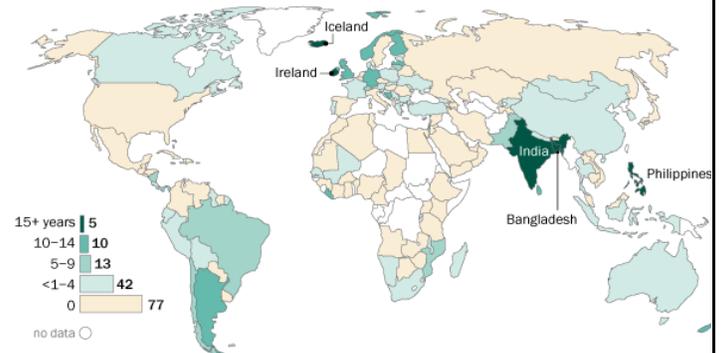
5. Can you match the name of these female world leaders to their country? See the names of all 15 countries that have a female leader at: <https://goo.gl/4WP8U2>.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| -Prime Minister Theresa May | *Bangladesh |
| -Chancellor Angela Merkel | *Estonia |
| -President Doris Leuthard | *Germany |
| -President Kersti Kaljulaid | *UK |
| -President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf | *Liberia |
| -Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina | *Switzerland |

6. How many nations have ever had a female head of state/government? (Answer at link above.)

Most of the world's nations have never had a female leader

Years served by female heads of state or government, 1964-2017



7. Women make up what percent of the U.S. Congress? Find out here: <https://goo.gl/GfRTy2>.

- a. Slightly over 30%.
- b. Under 20%.
- c. About 23%.

8. How many women are now serving in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, as state Governors or state Lieutenant (LT) Governors?

- a. Senate: 21. House: 84. Governor: 6. LT Gov: 12.
- b. Not enough to represent female American citizens, who comprise nearly 51% of the population.
- c. Both a. and b. (Come on, the answer is c! See numbers at link above.)

9. How many women are running for U.S. Congress, Governor/LT Governor, or other statewide offices in 2018 (per the Center for American Women and Politics based on potential candidate status)? Match the race/office to the potential number. (See numbers at: <https://goo.gl/o9UqUv>.)

- | | |
|--------------------------|------|
| -Senate | *79 |
| -House | *58 |
| -Governor | *46 |
| -LT Governor | *23 |
| -Other Statewide Offices | *383 |