

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES, January 17, 2024
Virtual Meeting Online via Zoom

Board members present: Anna Crane, presiding; Ashley Lorden, Susan Hauser, Anne McKereghan, Keasha Martindill. **Other members present:** Irene Dieter, Neil Rubenstein, Susan Gonzales, Richard Bangert, Paula Rainey.

Call to Order: Anna Crane called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Susan H moved, Anne seconded, and we approved to accept the consent agenda and previous meeting minutes.

President's Report: We are entering our busy season, with legislative meetings and forums. We need a committee to lead these, with at least 2 but not more than 5 people to conduct our interview with Mia Bonta; one to ask questions and one to record her answers. We'll collaborate with other leagues on questions and should be prepared to ask follow-ups to get thorough answers. Susan volunteered to take the lead on our committee.

Our program planning is fast approaching, where we must decide on our own priorities and give input on national priorities. We'll write up a dedicated message to our membership with the promise of refreshments, social time, and the important business.

City of Alameda Councilmembers recently made a [referral](#) to amend the Sunshine Ordinance to hire a Hearing Officer rather than continue allowing complaints to the Open Government Commission. LWVA, as a strong advocate of open government and the Commission in particular, may want to advise on this. We could weigh in now as the Open Government Commission considers it, or wait until the topic returns to Council. Board members will draft a letter and

Candidate Forums: We are responsible for AD18 and Office of Education Area 2, together encompassing 6 candidates. We've heard back from some and are working to reach the rest in order to arrange forum details and send official invitations and release statements. We're collaborating with Bonnie Hamlin to share updated contact info for Vote411, which she's owning during the transition from Voter's Edge. We'll be collaborating with our sister leagues on forum questions, and invite suggestions from our members for these candidates, and other forums they'll host.

Ranked Choice Voting: We are not on track to reach our goal of putting RCV on the ballot via signature collection, but we are proud of the significant voter education we've done in the course of talking to people. The solid majority of voters we talked to are in favor of the change, and we'll look for opportunities to support it in Alameda in the future.

Membership: We are seeking renewals from all our current members, and will be mailing physical letters to those who haven't yet paid online.

Nominating Committee: We have not been in compliance for the last few years with our bylaws, and recommend a change from requiring 5 members, 2 of whom are Directors, to a minimum of 3 members appointed by November 30th. We will need to amend the bylaw in our next Annual Meeting. We have an email draft to potential candidates for positions which we are reaching out with.

Open Floor: We are hoping to hear back in February from city staff about subsidizing candidate costs, and an early-stages discussion they're having on district elections. We'll decide next steps after hearing from them.

The Alameda County LWV has nominated Irene Dieter to serve on the new Elections Commission, along with Karen Butter. We're glad to have our members making recommendations to improve our elections!

Look out for our next First Friday in February.

Anna adjourned the meeting at 8:38pm.