

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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www.LWVAlameda.org

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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Voter Editor: position vacant.
Apply now. Great opportunity!

The League of Women Voters encourages informed and active participation in government. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

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VOTER

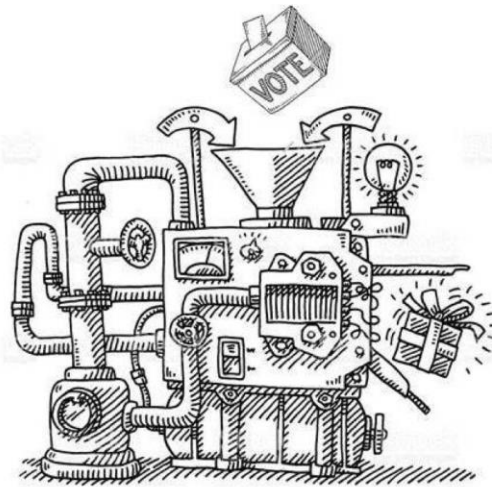
Promoting Political Responsibility Through Informed
and Active Participation

Volume 50, Number 4, July-August 2018

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ALAMEDA

AMERICAN VOTING SYSTEM INTEGRITY



September 2018: details TBD

**Come to this free community forum to learn about
safeguards and threats to our election systems!**

Info: LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- SAT. AUG. 4**
9:00am-2:30pm
LWVA BOARD RETREAT. First Congregational Church, 1912 Central Avenue. Lunch can be ordered. All members welcome to attend. Bring your ideas for Sep-Jun.
- SUN. AUG. 26**
WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY. This day commemorates the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.
- MON. AUG. 27**
3:00pm-4:30pm
BOOK CLUB. Russian Roulette: The Inside Story of Putin's War on America and the Election of Donald Trump, by Michael Isikoff and David Corn. **Applebee's Restaurant**, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- THU. SEP. TBD**
AMERICAN VOTING SYSTEM INTEGRITY. TBD. Free community forum!
- FRI. SEP. 7**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. TBD. RSVP: Anne McKereghan 510-407-0175 or anne@youreastbayagent.com.
- THU. SEP. 20**
7:00pm-9:00pm
LWVA BOARD MEETING. Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. SEP. 24**
3:00pm-4:30pm
BOOK CLUB. The Line Becomes a River: Dispatches from the Border, by Francisco Cantu. **Applebee's Restaurant**, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- TUE. SEP. 25**
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY. Help us register voters before the Mid-term 2018 elections! Details TBD.
- THU. SEP. 27**
7:00pm-9:00pm
LWVA FALL OPEN MEMBERSHIP MEETING. TBD. Fall season activities launch for members, guests and the public. Learn what the League plans to do this election season and how you can participate. Volunteer opportunities will be shared.
- THU. OCT. TBD**
7:00pm-9:00pm
MID-TERM 2018 ELECTION FORUMS. Watch for multiple evening forums prior to the November general elections. Contact Juelle-Ann Boyer if you would like to help.
- FRI. OCT. 5**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. TBD. RSVP: Anne McKereghan 510-407-0175 or anne@youreastbayagent.com.
- THU. OCT. 18**
7:00pm-9:00pm
LWVA BOARD MEETING. Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. OCT. 22**
3:00pm-4:30pm
BOOK CLUB. **Applebee's Restaurant**, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- FRI. NOV. 2**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. TBD. RSVP: Anne McKereghan 510-407-0175 or anne@youreastbayagent.com.
- TUE. NOV. 6**
MID-TERM 2018 ELECTION DAY. Get out the vote!



Report from the President of the LWVC – Leaders Update May 2018

I've received a number of questions and comments about League procedure, many of which are about why and how the League participates in coalitions. I've collated my responses here, in hopes that this will be shared widely among League members.

Coalitions: Partisanship, League Reputation, and More

Joining coalitions is one of the ways that we are able to magnify our League voice and increase the number of issues on which we can be active. Coalitions offer the prospect of greater clout and of greater member participation, and can often accomplish what the organizations working separately cannot.

We have specific guidelines about how and why we join coalitions. You can find these in *How to...Take Action* at http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/docs/How_to_Take_Action.pdf.

Working in coalitions raises broader questions about partisanship, League reputation, and the League's role in the coalition. Here are some specific thoughts on these issues:

Partisanship

Nonpartisanship is a core tenet of the League. That said, we remain in control of what we mean by "nonpartisan"; we don't allow others to define that for us. The League neither supports nor opposes candidates or parties. Rhetoric that calls out particular elected officials, while it may feel partisan to some, is decidedly not so. Part of the League's role as a good government group is to hold elected officials accountable for their actions and ensure the public is informed of those decisions.

Inflammatory language is not always bad. Campaigns generally carefully craft language, with a specific goal in mind. This can include inciting (motivating) segments of the community to care about an issue—people who otherwise might not listen to our message or act on an issue. The League's role in a coalition should be to help ensure that the language is truthful, compelling, and strong—and, at the same time, ensuring that we avoid being hyperbolic or uncivil.

League Role & Reputation

The League has two distinct roles—codified into two distinct corporations. One is what we've come to call our voter service role—registering voters, educating others and ourselves about issues of importance to the community. In this capacity, we provide all sides of the issue and refrain from advocating for any specific issue or policy. This work is conducted through the League's Education Fund.

Our other role is to influence public policy through grassroots advocacy and lobbying. In this role, we use the positions—stemming from the League's study and consensus, to improve the policies, laws, and regulations in California. Sometimes this involves influencing decision makers, at other times the public. In both cases, we use persuasive language designed to win hearts and minds. That language is, by design, not balanced. It is however never misleading. The focus of all this language is to provide enough information to persuade others of the rightness of our position.

The two roles sometimes get confused—both by the public and by League members. This confusion frequently leads to people attacking us for taking positions on ballot measures, for participating in campaigns, and for speaking strongly about issues we care about.

Despite this confusion, the League has survived for almost 100 years doing both jobs. We intend to keep doing both.

Advocacy vs. Voter Service Language

Language used when we do advocacy work is designed to persuade and change minds; it is consciously persuasive.

When we're involved in a campaign, language is carefully crafted and tested with a goal to persuade a particular audience. It is clear that different messages work for different parts of our community, and not infrequently, League messages are somewhat different from other coalition partners. This works best when we are all clear about the overall goal, and who is speaking to which audience. This all part of how campaigns work.

Campaign Coalitions

We are careful about when and how the League name is used—but we can't control all of the campaign rhetoric. Nor honestly, would we choose to. The League is not the sole arbiter of messaging—especially in a state as diverse as California. Our goal is to win the fight; we need to listen to the experts about what will both persuade people, and motivate them to vote. We also need to be respectful of other members of the coalition and allow for a variety of messages that work within various segments of the community.

Learning More

If your local League is interested in learning more about how the League conducts advocacy campaigns, we're happy to arrange an in-person workshop or discussion about these issues.

Helen Hutchison, president (email: hhutchison@lwvc.org).



Membership Update – by Membership VP Doris Gee

We are happy to report 170 members as of mid-June, and welcome three new members: Allan Mann, Phong La, and Stephanie Sato.

Goodbye and congratulations to our very own Rachel Wellman, who heads off to college at U.C. Berkeley this fall. She served admirably as our VOTER newsletter editor this past year. If you are interested in filling this vacant position, contact our Communications Chair, Keasha Martindill, at communications@lwvalameda.org.

The Membership Committee will not meet in July. Our next gathering is on Wednesday, 29 August at 9am at my home. Want to join us? Email me at dorisgee48@gmail.com.

Rulings on Voter Rights Cases – by Keasha Martindill

This month, the U.S. Supreme Court decided unanimously that the plaintiffs in the case of *Gill v. Whitford* did not have standing. They sent the case back to a lower court in Wisconsin, where the plaintiffs must prove whether their particular districts were politically gerrymandered. Similarly, the North Carolina gerrymandering case was sent back for a lower court decision. Read more about *Gill v. Whitford* and the future possibility of striking down a statewide map (which this case tried to do) at <https://bit.ly/2I5dYe0>.



In *Benisek v. Lamone*, the justices ruled against those who wanted Maryland's congressional districts redrawn, as the plaintiffs had waited too long to seek an injunction. Read more at <https://nyti.ms/2lf9CI8>.

The Supreme Court also struck down Minnesota's broad ban on wearing political messages (on shirts, buttons, etc.) inside polling places, saying the state's law violates free speech. In *Minnesota Voters Alliance v. Mansky*, Chief Justice Roberts explained that while "some forms of advocacy may be excluded," the state did not draw a reasonable line. Go to <https://bit.ly/2KbqL3S> and read more.

In *Husted v. A. Phillip Randolph Institute*, the justices upheld Ohio's system to purge people from its voter rolls. Ohio mails a prepaid return card to all who do not vote for two years. If the card is not sent back and the person does not vote in any election for four more years, their name is removed. The majority of the Court found this practice is legal, as not voting is not the sole basis for removal. Read more at <https://bit.ly/2HG2e1d>.

Get updates on all recent decisions from the Supreme Court at scotusblog.com.

California Primary 2018 Results – Compiled by Keasha Martindill

These are semi-official election results; **votes are still being counted**. Election officials plan to complete their work by 6 July. State data is from vote.sos.ca.gov and Alameda County data is from acvote.org. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission tallied Regional Measure 3 votes at bit.ly/2sYWKKD. **All info below is a snapshot of results on 25 June 2018**. Races and measures shown represent the ballot for Alameda voters.

Candidates in federal or state races who advance to the General Election are highlighted in **blue**. Those who ran unopposed are also marked with purple asterisk (*). Races too close to call (within 2%) are marked with a red question mark (?). Only top-finishing candidates are listed below.

<u>Federal/State/District Races</u>	<u>Candidates</u>	<u># Votes</u>	<u>% Total</u>
U.S. Senator	Dianne Feinstein (D)	2,876,508	44.2
	Kevin De Leon (D)	785,131	12.1
	James P. Bradley (R)	543,645	8.4
U.S. House, District 13	Barbara Lee (D)*	159,751	100.0
Governor	Gavin Newsom (D)	2,280,514	33.6
	John H. Cox (R)	1,729,773	25.5
	Antonio Villaraigosa (D)	904,744	13.3
Lt. Governor	Eleni Kounalakis (D)	1,546,228	24.2
	Ed Hernandez (D)	1,315,493	20.6
	Cole Harris (R)	1,121,663	17.5
Secretary of State	Alex Padilla (D)	3,388,826	52.5
	Mark P. Meuser (R)	2,006,411	31.1
	Ruben Major (D)	343,731	5.3
Controller	Betty T. Yee (D)	3,928,496	62.0
	Konstantinos Roditis (R)	2,152,834	34.0
	Mary Lou Finley (P&F)	253,068	4.0
Treasurer	Fiona Ma (D)	2,824,766	44.5
	Greg Conlon (R)?	1,330,080	20.9
	Jack M. Guerrero (R)?	1,227,665	19.3
Attorney General	Xavier Becerra (D)	2,943,628	45.7
	Steven C. Bailey (R)	1,579,112	24.5
	Dave Jones (D)	992,688	15.4
Insurance Commissioner	Steve Poizner (NP)	2,516,059	41.1
	Ricardo Lara (D)	2,473,633	40.4
	Asif Mahmood (D)	821,207	13.4
Board of Equalization, District 2	Malia Cohen (D)	692,290	38.8
	Mark Burns (R)?	479,186	26.8
	Cathleen Galgiani (D)?	457,650	25.6
State Assembly, District 18	Rob Bonta (D)	85,354	89.0
	Stephen Slauson (R)	10,549	11.0
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Marshall Tuck	2,178,674	37.2
	Tony K. Thurmond	2,084,985	35.6
	Lily (Espinoza) Ploski	955,035	16.3

Local candidates who won office by earning a vote majority in the Primary are highlighted in **green**, and those who ran unopposed are also marked with a purple asterisk (*). Candidates who will run-off in the General Election are highlighted in **blue**.

<u>Alameda County Races</u>	<u>Candidates</u>	<u># Votes</u>	<u>% Total</u>
Superior Court Judge, Seat 11	Tara Flanagan	176,128	63.18
	Karen Katz	100,408	36.01
Superintendent of Schools	L. Karen Monroe*	221,392	97.68
Supervisor, District 3	Wilma Chan*	44,825	97.35
Assessor	Phong La	98,828	38.86
	Jim Johnson	63,297	24.88
	John Weed	54,631	21.48
	Kevin D. Lopez	35,447	13.94
Auditor-Controller	Melissa Wilk	137,558	56.39
	Irella C. Blackwood	103,733	42.52
District Attorney	Nancy O'Malley	167,929	57.43
	Pamela Price	122,850	42.01
Sheriff-Coroner	Gregory Ahern*	211,884	95.76
Treasurer-Tax Collector	Hank Levy*	220,492	97.95

Alameda County's Measure A required a two-thirds majority to pass; all other measures only needed a simple majority. A green check means passage and a red 'x' means failure. These outcomes are unlikely to change.

<u>State Measures</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u># Votes</u>	<u>% Total</u>	<u>Pass?</u>
Proposition 68:	Yes	3,076,056	57.2	
Bonds for Environment, Parks and Water	No	2,770,940	42.8	
Proposition 69:	Yes	5,253,219	81.0	
Transportation Funding	No	1,234,124	19.0	
Proposition 70:	Yes	2,199,527	35.3	
Cap and Trade Amendment	No	4,024,399	64.7	
Proposition 71:	Yes	4,873,182	77.6	
Ballot Measure Effective Date	No	1,405,830	22.4	
Proposition 72:	Yes	5,401,794	84.6	
Taxes for Rainwater Capture System	No	985,057	15.4	
<u>Local Measures</u>	<u>Y/N</u>	<u># Votes</u>	<u>% Total</u>	<u>Pass?</u>
Regional Measure 3:	Yes	845,394	55.1	
Toll Bridge Increases/Improved Public Transit	No	688,407	44.9	
Alameda County Measure A:	Yes	214,955	66.2	
Expanded Childcare/Increased Provider Wages	No	109,726	33.8	

LWVA Annual Meeting: Approvals for 2018-2019

Board of Directors & Nominating Committee Approved

See the left side of page one for the newly elected Board of Directors, from President to Voter Service Chairs. Marilyn Ng and Anne McKereghan were elected to the 2018-2019 Nominating Committee. We need one non-Board member and two Board members to complete this group; email susanhauser1@gmail.com to volunteer. Thank you to all who attended Annual Meeting; our guest speaker, Jennifer Williams; our 2017-2018 Board and Nominating Committee; and our newly elected 2018-2019 Board and Nominating Committee members.

Program Approved

Local:

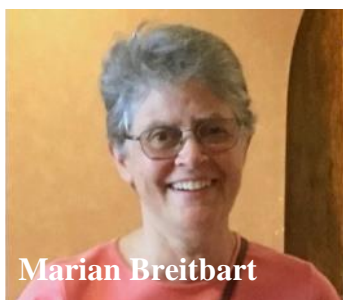
- Retain all existing local positions. View at lwvalameda.org/positions-lwva.html.
- Revise Housing and Transportation position.
- No new study or update study.
- Adopt as Issues for Emphasis:
 - Campaign Finance,
 - Local government transparency and good governance,
 - High school voter registration/education, and
 - Schools & Communities First Campaign (Reform Prop 13).

State: Making Democracy Work in California, Environment/Natural Resources, Health Care, and Tax Reform. View at lwvc.org/our-work/positions.

National: Campaign for Making Democracy Work with four priority areas: Voting Rights, Improving Elections Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting. View at lwvc.org/our-work/positions.

Budget Approved

See the 2018 Annual Meeting Kit for details at lwvalameda.org/lwva-meeting-documents.html.





Shubha Fanse, CS, Dorothy Kerwin, Patti Heimburger (clockwise)



Mark Hamilton, Jena Tam, Luann DeWitt & Joan Searls



Donna Vaughn, Sandra Biroc & Li Volin



Joan Narahara & Lois Pryor



GGD, JW, DG, Felice Zensius, Karen Butter & Sally Faulhaber (l-r)