



**League of Women Voters of Alameda  
YES on Measure B:  
Alameda Unified School District Bond Election 2022**

The Alameda Unified School Board is placing Measure B on the June 2022 ballot to continue and complete its work from the 2014 AUSD Facilities Master Plan. Measure I was approved by voters in 2014 to begin work on the Master Plan. Bond funds will be used to upgrade local classrooms, math/science labs, technology, college/career training facilities; improve accessibility, earthquake safety, school security, water quality/ plumbing systems; renovate, acquire, construct, classrooms, sites, including athletic facilities for all middle and high schools.

Measure B bonds will be issued over a 12-year period. It is estimated that Alameda homeowners will pay an average of \$45 per \$100,000 of assessed value annually from 2023 – 2033 or an average of \$670 yearly for 10 years. Measure B bonds would be in addition to the existing Measure B1 (2016) and A (2020) parcel taxes and the gradual retirement of the Measure B1 (2014) facilities bond.

Measure B contains strong accountability provisions, requiring a local citizen’s advisory committee to review expenditures plus an independent auditor to report on revenues and expenditures to the Board of Education and the community.

The League of Women Voters of Alameda urges a qualified YES vote on Measure B. The State is responsible for funding preK-12 education. However recent data indicate that state support covers only 58% of the cost, leaving local districts to fund the balance. Voters throughout the state are faced with continuing parcel taxes and bond measures to support local schools. The League would prefer that the State establish a mechanism for supporting capital projects in local districts. This would return construction funding to the state and establish equity in capital funding for schools statewide. Nonetheless, due to the importance and urgency of completing the Master Plan, we urge a Yes vote on Measure B.

Support for Measure B is based upon the 2021 [League of Women Voters of California Position on Education: Pre-Kindergarten through 12](#) that states that among the fundamental elements that must be present to create a teaching and learning environment that provides access and equitable opportunity for all children includes a safe school environment, clean, healthy facilities in good repair with seating for all children. The position also states that educational programs should have sufficient resources to provide all students with challenging learning opportunities. Despite the fact that debt financing through bonds is an inefficient funding method, the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.

**PROP 15    SCHOOLS & COMMUNITIES FIRST****YES**

The Schools & Communities First initiative will raise \$12 billion every year for California's schools, essential workers, and local governments. This will come by ensuring that all corporate properties worth more than \$3 million pay their fair share of property taxes - while protecting homeowners and renters, small businesses, and agriculture. This money is needed now more than ever and is critical to California's recovery and reinvestment.

**Vote YES on Prop 15****PROP 16    OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL****YES**

Affirmative action in state hiring, contracting, and education was banned in California by Prop 209 in 1996. Prop 16 will reverse that ban and allow schools and public institutions to take race, ethnicity, color, national origin, and gender into consideration when admitting students to colleges, hiring employees for public jobs, and selecting contractors for public projects. Equal opportunity programs are a time-tested way to fight systemic racism and gender discrimination by leveling the playing field and giving everyone a chance at good public jobs and wages and quality public schools. Prop 16 provides all Californians a fair opportunity in education, employment, and contracting.

**Vote YES on Prop 16****PROP 17    RESTORE VOTING RIGHTS****YES**

Restoring voting rights to Californians who have completed their prison term is a matter of justice, equity, and fundamental fairness. Right now, nearly 50,000 people who have been released from prison and are on parole are denied the right to vote - a right that is owed to every citizen and important to successful reintegration into the community. Our neighbors who are working, paying taxes, raising families, and rebuilding their lives deserve a voice in the policy-making that shapes their lives. And including their voices will help California achieve a more representative democracy.

**Vote YES on Prop 17****PROP 18    VOTING RIGHTS FOR 17-YEAR OLDS****YES**

Seventeen-year-olds who will be 18 by the next general election should be able to vote in primary and special elections. Prop 18 will give them that right. Young people are significantly underrepresented in California's electorate. Allowing 17-year-olds to vote in primary and special elections will engage young voters while they are studying the issues in high school and have a strong interest in participation. Once voting begins it becomes a life-long habit. Furthermore, fairness dictates that people who will be eligible to vote in a general election should be able to help choose the candidates who will be on that ballot. Finally, many 17-year-olds are civically engaged and at the forefront of movements to improve the communities in which they live. We would all benefit from their voices at the ballot box.

**Vote YES on Prop 18**

**PROP 19 PROPERTY TAX BREAKS****NO**

Prop 19 exacerbates an already inequitable property tax system - offering tax breaks to people who do not need them. Providing tax breaks to homeowners over 55 who purchase a replacement home and allowing them to “transfer” their current tax assessment to a new home anywhere in the state does nothing to help low-income seniors or families struggling to find housing. This proposition would allow not just one, but three such transfers. Senior citizens are already allowed to keep their current tax assessment when they purchase a home of equal or lesser value. And while the plan to put state revenue from increased home sales into a fund to support firefighting may sound appealing, it will make it more difficult for the legislature to fund the state’s response to other natural disasters or public health crises. While Prop 19 eliminates a tax break for some property inherited by children from parents, this beneficial element is not sufficient to merit support.

**Vote NO on Prop 19****PROP 20 ROLLBACK ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORMS****NO**

Over the past decade, California has made progress enacting laws that reduce the prison population and create a more effective and equitable public safety system. Prop 20 would roll back many advances in criminal justice reforms and reinstate a “get tough” law enforcement system that believes longer incarceration is a solution to crime. It would make minor theft of some goods worth over \$250 punishable as a felony. It allows the state to collect DNA from people convicted of misdemeanors like shoplifting and drug possession. Prop 20 sends California in the wrong direction at a time when there is forward momentum toward smart justice approaches that increase public safety and reduce costs to the state.

**Vote NO on Prop 20****PROP 24 CONSUMER DATA PRIVACY****NO**

The League of Women Voters supports the protection of consumers’ private data. Prop 24 includes some beneficial elements, but we oppose due to the complexity of a 52-page initiative with impacts and nuances that are difficult for voters to discern and rollbacks to existing protections. Among the troubling aspects of Prop 24 is its expansion of “pay for privacy” through the addition of loyalty and rewards programs, allowing businesses to charge consumers more or provide worse service if they choose to exercise their privacy rights. The initiative also allows businesses to require consumers to direct each individual website and app not to sell information - weakening the current legal requirement that companies respect a global opt-out for all services. These burdens are fundamentally inequitable, placing the onus on the average consumer to protect their own privacy. Working people don't have the time to do the paperwork and they can't afford to pay companies to respect their wishes. Finally, the initiative comes less than a year after the 2018 California Consumer Privacy Rights Act went into effect, before we have had an opportunity to see how the new law works or the legislature has had a chance to address any defects.

**Vote NO on Prop 24**

**PROP 25    END CASH MONEY BAIL****YES**

A YES vote on Prop 25 is a vote to replace the money bail system with the use of pretrial risk assessment tools that focus on safety and flight risk. It is estimated that almost 46,000 Californians, a disproportionate number of whom are Black and Latinx, are being held in jail but not yet sentenced. Cash bail both criminalizes poverty and reflects the systemic racism that plagues our criminal legal process. California must move away from the money bail system to create a fairer and more equitable criminal legal system that balances public safety with the presumption of innocence. People who pose little threat to public safety should not be subject to losing their jobs, homes, and families simply because they lack the money to pay for release from jail while awaiting their day in court. While the new law that would go into effect with a YES vote is not perfect, it can be amended by the legislature. A NO vote, however, could enshrine cash bail and prevent future legislative action to curtail the commercial bail industry.

**Vote YES on Prop 25**

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**NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON OTHER STATE PROPOSITIONS ON NOVEMBER'S BALLOT****PROP 14    STEM CELL RESEARCH****NEUTRAL**

While the League of Women Voters of California supports ongoing stem cell research, we are neutral on Prop 14 because of the funding mechanism used and because of the requirement for a supermajority vote to amend its provisions. Prop 14 would authorize the use of general obligation bonds to continue funding stem cell research through the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). However, general obligation bonds are designed for long-term financing of capital projects, purchase of facilities for public use, and repair or retrofitting of public facilities and structures – not for funding specialized research by an entity that has little state oversight. Furthermore, the legislature is prohibited from changing the law without a 70 percent supermajority vote, thereby restricting state representatives' ability to carry out their responsibilities. Finally, profits from intellectual property agreements could only be spent on CIRM-funded research treatments, limiting the state's flexibility to spend funds on matters that might be more urgent.

**PROP 21    LOCAL GOVERNMENTS & RENT CONTROL****NEUTRAL**

The League supports efforts to help resolve California's housing crisis. We promote solutions aimed at increasing housing production in a sustainable, accessible, and equitable manner. Rent control policies are one strategy to address California's housing challenges, offer tenant protections, and prevent displacement. Rent control may be an effective short-term solution but studies suggest that its longer-term impact may, in certain cases, stifle the building of high-density and more affordable housing. Some of the modifications in Prop 21 have already been addressed through recently passed legislation. Because there are benefits and drawbacks to rent control, the League has chosen to be neutral on Prop 21.



VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE  
PROPOSITION RECOMMENDATIONS  
NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION  
For more info: [bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs](https://bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs)

**PROP 23 KIDNEY DIALYSIS CLINICS**

**NEUTRAL**

This measure will require operators of chronic dialysis clinics to have a minimum of one licensed physician at the clinic whenever patients are being treated, offer the same level of care to all patients regardless of how payment is being made, and make reports about dialysis-related infections to the state's health department and the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN). There is disagreement about whether the presence of a doctor is always necessary or could exacerbate a doctor shortage, and over whether costs are manageable or prohibitively high. Furthermore, the League questions why voters should be deciding questions of recordkeeping and medical staffing. The uncertainty of the costs and benefits of the measure leads the League to take a neutral position.

**PROP 22 RIDESHARE AND DELIVERY DRIVERS**

**NO POSITION**

The League of Women Voters of California's [positions](#) do not cover the issues in Prop 22. We therefore take no stand on the proposition.

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 3!**

Check [Voter's Edge](#)  
for more information about what's on your ballot



Ad paid for by League of Women Voters Supporting Schools and Communities First - Yes on Prop 15 (Nonprofit 501(c)(4))

**Nov 2020**



**City of Alameda – Measure AA**  
**51% Required to Pass**

**Vote with the League: YES on City of Alameda Measure AA**

The Alameda City Council is asking voters to approve changes to the City Charter. The Charter was adopted in 1937 and describes the form and structure of Alameda's municipal government. In our Council Manager structure, the City Manager is entrusted with all administrative functions and the Council is responsible for establishing policy, passing local ordinances, voting appropriations, and developing an overall vision for the city.

Some sections of the Charter are outdated and need revisions to conform to modern practices and conventions. This ballot measure is in part an effort to clean up Charter language and introduces new authority for the City Attorney's office.

If voters approve Measure AA it will:

- Expand prohibitions against interference by City Council members and the Mayor in the City's administrative functions to include other elected and appointed officials and defines areas of unlawful interference. It requires Council members to work through the City Manager's office on administrative functions and defines the consequences of violations;
- Give authority to the City Attorney's office to prosecute general state law misdemeanors that occur in Alameda;
- Clean up language allowing Council members to be physically away from the office for more than 30 days; remove timing restrictions on appointment to Boards and Commissions; delete references to travel reimbursements; and add gender-neutral pronouns.

**The League supports Measure AA.** We strongly support the clean-up language; efforts to further define the separation of administrative and council functions; and consequences for violations. We are concerned that the granting of the authority to the City Attorney to prosecute general state law misdemeanors is more than an administrative matter. There has been no public debate about this new function – and it was not one of the six topics discussed at the LWVA public meetings on potential charter changes over a year ago. We would have preferred a public discussion about the change and the implications of a City attorney, hired and fired by the council, exercising prosecutorial discretion for state misdemeanors in addition to violations of city laws.

The League supports measures providing simplicity and transparency in the City Charter through clarification of meaning and elimination of obsolete or inapplicable provisions.

**Measure AA deserves a YES vote on 3 November 2020.**



**City of Alameda – Measure Z**  
**51% Required to Pass**

**Vote with the League: YES on City of Alameda Measure Z**

In 1973, Alamedans passed Measure A and added Article 26 to the City Charter (Multiple Dwelling Units) to prohibit the construction of multi-family housing. In 1991, voters amended Article 26 and the General Plan, to limit the maximum density of any residential development to one housing unit per 2,000 square feet of land. The City Council adopted Article 26's requirements into the City's zoning ordinances.

If approved by voters, a new provision would be added to the City of Alameda's General Plan to repeal the maximum requirement for residential developments to one housing unit per 2,000 square feet of land. It would also repeal the restriction on the construction of multi-family housing units.

**The LWV of Alameda supports the repeal of Article 26** because we support a simplified city charter that provides the City with flexibility to adapt to changing needs. The development limits prescribed in the City Charter present barriers to address Alameda's housing shortages. The planned update to the Alameda City's General Plan is the rightful place for discussions about community needs for more housing, especially the requirement for funding from private and public sources for affordable units, and concerns about the implications of further development. We also support the repeal because it is inconsistent with state law and risks legal challenges.

The League supports measures providing simplicity and transparency in the City Charter through clarification of meaning and elimination of obsolete or inapplicable provisions. The League also supports action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians.

**Measure Z deserves a YES vote on 3 November 2020.**



**Mar 2020**

## **Vote YES on Prop 13 - Bonds for Schools & Colleges**

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**Share:**

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Proposition 13 would authorize \$15 billion for construction and modernization of school and college facilities in California. It includes \$9 billion for preschool and K-12 schools and \$6 billion for California's public higher education system. The funds will be split evenly among the 114 community colleges, the 23-campus California State University and the 10 campuses of the University of California.

Proceeds from state school bonds are a supplement to local school bonds, which provide most of the funding for construction and modernization of K-12 schools, along with developer fees, which make up a small portion (about 5 percent) of overall funding for school facilities.

This measure addresses a number of equity-related issues in the School Facilities Program, provides technical support for smaller school districts, and sets aside money to test for and remove lead from school drinking water. Notably, for the first time in California's history, a state bond measure makes funding available for school district-run preschools and requires school districts to submit a five-year facility master plan as a condition of receiving bond funding.

This measure also addresses issues of seismic deficiencies, fire and safety, and critically deferred maintenance in laboratories, dormitories and classrooms on the 147 campuses of California's public higher education institutions. Finally, prior to receiving funds, the California State University and the University of California must adopt a five-year affordable student housing plan for each campus.

### **League Analysis:**

All children in California deserve school facilities in good repair and equipped to provide students with a 21st century education. Across the state, there is a massive need for modernization of old and construction of new

### **Our Stance**

### **Support**

### **More Information**

[March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election \(/vote/elections/2020-03-03-000000\)](#)  
[Proposition 13: Bonds for Schools and Colleges \(/vote/elections/ballot-measures/proposition-13-bonds-schools-and-colleges\)](#)

and to districts with lower local resources or greater need.

Public education is of fundamental interest to California and is a state constitutional guarantee. A quality public education is also fundamental to fulfilling the League's mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government and increased understanding of major public policy issues. A safe, secure, and modern learning environment can be a powerful foundation for a child's education. But California's schools are aging and need critical upgrades to meet current health and safety standards. Chronic underfunding leaves most public-school communities unable to adequately address their needs, increasing the danger of greater disparities among them.

The League has a consistent history of supporting public education facilities bond measures. It has long been understood that no single facilities bond measure could meet the needs of public-school facilities infrastructure and that a series of bond measures, with requirements for local matching funds and provisions to assist poorer districts, would be needed. It has been four years since the last statewide facilities bond was passed by the voters.

Since the creation of the School Facilities Program in 1998, voters have approved \$42 billion in state general obligation bonds for K-12 school facilities. All new construction and modernization bond authority from previous bond measures has been exhausted. As of November 2019, the state has received applications from schools for more than \$1 billion in state matching funds above what voters have authorized. These applications were submitted to the state under the current program to make safety repairs, complete seismic renovations, build new schools, and make technology improvements.

Local education agencies (such as school districts and county offices of education) are eligible for modernization funding based on the age of buildings. Permanent buildings become eligible after 25 years, with special priority given to buildings after 50 years. Portable buildings become eligible after 20 years. Estimates are that California schools should be investing over \$11 billion per year in modernization and new construction over the next decade.



**AUSD – Measure A  
66 <sup>2/3</sup>% Required to Pass**

**Measure A: Alameda Unified School District Special Parcel Tax Election Yes**

Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) teachers and employees are among the lowest paid in the county. Teachers frequently need a second job to support themselves and every year 20% move to districts with higher salaries. To raise teacher and staff salaries AUSD cut its budget in 2018 eliminating programs and services and laying off teachers.

AUSD is asking Alameda voters to approve a parcel tax dedicated solely to teacher and staff salaries. The tax would raise an estimated \$10,500,000 annually for 7 years with exemptions for seniors and individuals receiving SSDI.

If this measure is approved, property owners will pay \$0.265 per building square foot with a cap of \$7,999 per parcel. Parcels without buildings will pay \$299. It will cost an average homeowner \$424 a year.

Measure A contains strong accountability provisions, requiring a citizen's advisory committee to review expenditures plus an independent auditor to report on revenues and expenditures to the Board of Education and the community.

**The League endorses Measure A** because a quality education is an investment in our children's future and an essential component for a democracy. Measure A will help to provide students with highly qualified, experienced teachers. Without adequate pay those teachers will leave. The League recognizes that parcel taxes in general are regressive. But we believe that the revenues from Measure A are critical and further budget reductions would lead to an overall decline from which our district might not be able to recover.

The League's endorsement is qualified. In California, the state funds education. In recent years, the state has underfunded education so school districts have little recourse outside of bonds and parcel taxes to raise sufficient funds. If Districts are successful in raising local funds, the legislature is released from its duty to appropriate adequate support. Continually going back to the voters is not sustainable and very short term. Additionally, the March 2020 ballot will include three education measures so voters are continually bombarded with more and more ballot initiatives.

The Board supports the concerns but decided that the benefits of the parcel tax are essential to retain teachers and staff to provide a quality education to Alameda students.

Support for Measure A is based upon the 2005 [League of Women Voters of California's Position on Education: Pre-Kindergarten through 12](#), which calls for the League to "Support a system of public education that is adequate, flexible, equitable and sustainable: derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students."

**Measure A deserves a YES vote on 3 March 2020.**

**Nov 2019**



Mail Ballot to Alameda City Property Owners  
Over 50% for Passage

**2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee**

**Yes**

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports the 2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee to repair and maintain critical pump stations, levees, pipes, and lagoons, remove trash and pollutants from urban runoff, and invest in a storm drainage infrastructure.

The City instituted the \$56 fee for property owners 15 years ago and it has not increased since that time. Today, the fee is not adequate to protect homes and businesses from flooding. The City is proposing to increase the fee an average of an additional \$78/year for residential customers, and higher fees for businesses, with a possible annual inflationary increase of up to 3%. This new fee \$134 would be placed into a separate account to be used only for this purpose and would allow the City to maintain and improve the storm drainage infrastructure and comply with the State Regional Water Control Quality Board requirements for trash capture, pollution control and green infrastructure. The fee has no sunset.

The League supports this measure for its policies on water quality and climate change. The League promotes the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality. This fee would assist in capturing debris in storm-water runoff, helping to maintain the quality of the Bay water. Additionally, the League supports actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect our state from the negative consequences, and this fee will help to protect the streets and properties from flooding.

While the League supports this fee, we would have preferred to use a parcel tax to raise revenue, which requires a 2/3 threshold to win and would have allowed all registered voters, not just property owners, the opportunity to cast a vote.

Despite our reservations on the voting method, the 2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee deserves a YES vote.



**Apr 2019**

**Alameda City – Measure A  
51% Required for Passage**

**Measure A: Caring Alameda Act**

**Yes**

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports Measure A, the Caring Alameda Act. Measure A supports the provision of essential support services for homeless people in Alameda and Alameda County, including health care and a suitable living environment for medically fragile seniors.

Measure A, which was placed on a special April 9, 2019 ballot by the Alameda City Council, would affirm a City Council decision to rezone a 3.65-acre parcel on McKay Avenue to permit the construction and operation of a wellness center that would provide shelter, health care and other services to people who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless.

Construction of the wellness center would increase the availability of appropriate living space and health care for some of Alameda County's most vulnerable residents by providing assisted living units for medically fragile seniors and respite care for homeless people who are not sick enough to remain in a hospital and may otherwise be turned out into the streets. The center would additionally provide case management and housing placement services for people in the City of Alameda who are homeless or in danger of becoming homeless, potentially reducing the number of homeless people on city streets.

The McKay Avenue site provides convenient access to transit service, enabling residents to visit relatives and friends and lead more independent lives as they recover. If constructed as planned, the wellness center would reduce the potential for blight by removing and rehabilitating existing buildings on the site.

The LWVA supports policies that meet basic human needs and additionally supports land use policies and general plan revisions that are designed to advance the welfare of Alameda residents in areas including housing and social services.

**Measure A deserves a YES vote on April 9.**



**Apr 2019**

**Alameda City – Measure B  
51% Required for Passage**

**Measure B: Initiative for Expansion of Open Space at Crab Cove No**

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) opposes Measure B, the Initiative for Expansion of Open Space at Crab Cove. Measure B neither expands nor protects open space. The Measure also threatens to reduce funding for the development and maintenance of existing city parks.

Measure B, a voter initiative on the special April 9, 2019 ballot, would rezone as open space a 3.65-acre parcel with several unused buildings on McKay Avenue at the southern end of the Webster Street business district. The measure would prohibit the redevelopment of the parcel for any other use, including the homeless housing and services proposed for the site.

The LWVA opposes Measure B for the following reasons:

- The measure provides no funding to acquire the parcel or to build or maintain a park.
- No public agency has expressed an interest in building a park at the site.
- Approval of the measure could potentially result in negative consequences, including:
  - Litigation against the city
  - Reduction of funding for existing parks
  - Delay in redeveloping the site, which could cause blight

The LWVA opposes land use policies, such as those contained in Measure B, that lack concrete goals and objectives and that fail to adequately reflect cost considerations. Such policies could hinder the implementation of existing conservation and open space elements of the General Plan.

**Measure B deserves a NO vote on April 9.**



**Nov 2018**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA  
RECOMMENDS  
November 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION**

**Measure F      Alameda Sales Tax Increase      Neutral**

Measure F will appear on the November ballot in Alameda. Approval of Measure F will add a one-half percent sales tax to purchases made within the city. Based on current expenses, the city anticipates it will be in a deficit situation without greater revenue. We understand the city's need for increased funds, but, after careful consideration, we have taken a neutral position on this measure. We neither support nor oppose it.

These are some of the reasons for our stance.

- Historically, the League of Women Voters has supported measures to ensure revenues that are both sufficient and flexible to meet changing needs for local government services. The LWV has also supported revenues that are equitable and fairly shared among taxpayers.
- Sales taxes, by their very nature, are regressive and not fairly shared by all citizens.
- Furthermore, Measure F has no sunset provision, which means that it would continue indefinitely and only terminate by another ballot vote.
- Additionally, a statewide ballot measure in 2020, *Schools and Communities First*, will, if approved, revise parts of Proposition 13 (Jarvis Gann) and provide local jurisdictions with increased, progressive revenue.

Because we have determined there is no consensus among our members, the League of Women Voters of Alameda remains neutral or does not have a position either for or against this initiative.

**No Recommendation on Measure F.**



**Nov 2018**

**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA  
RECOMMENDS  
November 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION**

**Measure K      Alameda Rent Charter Amendment      No**

The League of Women Voters only makes recommendations on ballot measures based on current League program positions. The League has no position on rent control at either the state (LWV California) or local (LWV Alameda) level though we recognize the housing crisis in our area. We do, however, have a position on good governance: *Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified State Constitution; provisions that enable the Legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly and with responsibility clearly fixed, and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state legislature.*

The LWVA opposes Measure K for the following reasons:

- Principles of good government require that the City Charter not include provisions which: 1) inhibit flexibility of governmental action to meet changing conditions, and 2) contain highly detailed provisions of administration and procedure.
- Housing policy is complicated and will require frequent adjustments. Under Measure K, all changes would require a costly, time-consuming election, whether to fix minor errors or to remedy major flaws.
- The proposed measure may create conflicts with Proposition 10 (Repeal Costa Hawkins) or other present or future state requirements and require court interpretation or resolution.
- Rent control is a very complex issue; the twenty-five pages of Measure K attest to that fact, and it simply doesn't belong in the City Charter.

**Vote No on Measure K.**

**Nov 2018**

**LWV BAY AREA SUPPORTS MEASURE FF (<https://bit.ly/2IDSGpG>)**

After careful consideration the Bay Area League Board votes to support Alameda and Contra Costa County Measure FF ***Wildfire Protection, Safe Parks/Trails, Public Access, Natural Habitat***

**The Question:** Without increasing tax rates, to protect against wildfires; enhance public safety; preserve water quality, shorelines, urban creeks; protect redwoods and parklands in a changing climate; and restore natural areas, shall East Bay Regional Park District be authorized to extend an existing parcel tax of \$1 monthly (\$12/year) per single-family parcel and 69 cents monthly (\$8.28/year) for multi-family units, raising approximately \$3.3 million annually, to expire in 20 years

This Measure affects 9-Bay Area Leagues; Alameda; Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville; Diablo Valley; Eden; Fremont, Newark, Union City; Oakland; Palo Alto; Piedmont; and West Contra Costa Leagues.

**Nov 2018**

Peralta Community College District

**Neutral Measure E**

To continue providing the colleges of Alameda, Berkeley, Laney, and Merritt, funds that are to be taken by the state to support affordable college education, including core academic programs to prepare students for university transfer and successful careers, by providing tutoring and teacher support; shall Peralta Community College District continue to levy \$48 per parcel annually for eight years, providing \$8,000,000 annually, with internal and citizens' oversight, no funds for administrator salaries, and all funds benefitting local colleges?

**Support Measure G**

To upgrade aging classrooms, technology, science labs; expand job training classrooms; and acquire, construct, repair sites/facilities/equipment, shall the Peralta Community College District issue \$800 million in bonds at legal interest rates, with approximately \$44.2 million in taxes raised annually for 40 years at projected tax rates of \$24.50 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, with no funds for administrator salaries, audits and citizen oversight, and all funds used locally?



**Nov 2018**  
**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF CALIFORNIA**  
**RECOMMENDS**  
**November 6, 2018 GENERAL ELECTION**

**PROP 1      Veterans and Affordable Housing Bond      YES**

California is experiencing a housing crisis. The state's extreme shortage of affordable housing has life and death consequences, especially for people with low incomes. Housing instability has been linked to public health crises, food insecurity, and developmental problems in children. Prop 1 will build and preserve affordable homes, including supportive housing, for veterans, working families, people with disabilities, Californians experiencing homelessness and others struggling to find a safe place to call home. It will authorize \$4 billion in general obligation bonds, to be used to support these affordable housing programs. It would also leverage federal dollars for construction of new housing.

**Vote YES on Prop 1.**

**PROP 2      Homeless Housing Bond      YES**

A quarter of the nation's homeless reside in California--over 130,000 people. A significant percentage of our homeless population suffers from mental illness. Prop 2 allows the use of unspent money, originally allocated through a 2004 measure to fund mental health services, to be used to address the problem. If passed, the unspent money would be used to provide permanent supportive housing for people who need mental health services, and are either currently homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

**Vote YES on Prop 2.**

**PROP 3      Water Bond      NO**

It is essential that California manage and develop water resources in ways that benefit the environment, and that the environmental focus emphasizes both conservation and use-appropriate high water quality standards. However, this bond is *not* the way to accomplish those goals. While the League of Women Voters of California supports the use of long-term debt (bond measures) to finance capital projects, this measure has a number of fatal flaws, including:

- Shifting the cost for water from the end users to California taxpayers;
- Reducing state money available for other critical state programs like education, affordable housing, and healthcare;
- Failing to provide for adequate project oversight and financial accountability.

**Vote NO on Prop 3.**

**PROP 4      Children's Hospital Bond      NO**

While the League of Women Voters of California supports quality healthcare for all Californians, Prop 4 would use \$1.5 billion in public, general obligation bond money to support privately-owned children's hospitals, along with five children's hospitals in the University of California system. State funds should not be used to support private facilities. This principle stands even when, as is the case in this measure, the facilities serve severely ill children. The bond money would be used for construction, expansion, renovation, and equipment projects. These are capital improvements that could be funded either through revenues the private hospitals generate or through capital campaigns (where, for example, a building is named after a donor).

**Vote NO on Prop 4.**

**PROP 5 Property Tax**

**NO**

Property taxes are the major source of funding for schools and local services. Prop 5 is a costly constitutional amendment that would reduce funds for schools and local services by \$1 billion per year. In exchange for that \$1 billion a year, Prop 5 would provide special tax benefits to some property owners. It does nothing to help low-income seniors, or families struggling to find housing. Seniors already have the ability to keep their tax break when they downsize. Prop 5 drains California's coffers of money that is essential to schools and communities.

**Vote NO on Prop 5.**

**PROP 6 Gas Tax Repeal**

**NO**

California is in critical need of highway and local street repairs and maintenance, and improvements to mass transit and transportation. Prop 6 would repeal the recently-enacted 2017 package of taxes and fees approved by the State Legislature to fund transportation projects, amounting to a loss of \$4.7 billion in annual funding. The measure would also add a constitutional amendment requiring any fuel or diesel taxes to be approved by voters, limiting the legislature's ability to address California's serious infrastructure needs. Passage of this repeal measure would have significant negative impacts and leave our state structures vulnerable, especially during natural disasters.

**Vote NO on Prop 6.**

**PROP 10 Repeal Costa Hawkins**

**YES**

Multiple strategies are needed to address the significant housing shortages and inequities that exist across California. While this rent control measure offers little systemic progress, and may not result in adding new affordable housing units, it does allow local communities to respond to the housing crisis in ways that are appropriate for each of them. We support providing local communities with this control.

**Vote YES on Prop 10.**

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Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking **no stand** on **Prop 7** (Daylight Savings Time), **Prop 8** (Dialysis), **Prop 11** (Ambulance Drivers), and **Prop 12** (Farm Animals).

**Prop 9** was removed from the ballot.

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 6!**

8/12/2018



**Jun 2018**  
**THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS**  
**RECOMMENDS**  
**June 5, 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION**

**PROP 68 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act YES**

This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking and are a key part of our state response to climate change.

**Vote YES on Prop 68.**

**PROP 69 Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes YES**

If passed, this constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can ONLY be used for road and transportation improvement projects. This amendment protects these transportation funds by prohibiting the state legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes. Prop 69 protects existing taxes and fees we are already paying. It does not raise taxes one cent. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation.

**Vote YES on Prop 69.**

**PROP 70 Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund NO**

This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB (California Air Resources Board) of cap-and-trade allowances after 2024. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions.

**Vote NO on Prop 70.**

**PROP 71 Effective Date of Initiatives YES**

Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after Election Day, that is not always the case. Prop 71 would provide that an initiative would take effect five days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results.

**Vote YES on Prop 71.**

**PROP 72 Property taxation: new construction: rain water capture system YES**

This measure would allow an exclusion from additional property taxes for construction or installation of rain water capture systems. These systems capture, store, and use otherwise wasted rain water for landscape irrigation and similar uses, saving more conventional water for personal use. With traditional water sources becoming less dependable, this is one more way we can diversify sources of usable water.

**Vote YES on Prop 72.**

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON JUNE 5!**

3/10/2018

**Jun 2018**



March 16, 2018

Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
375 Beale Street, Suite 800  
San Francisco, CA 94105-9800

Dear Chair Mackenzie and Members of the Commission:

On March 12, 2018, the Board of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area considered Regional Measure 3 and voted to support the measure. The Bay Area League was formed in 1959 to address regional issues and one of its longstanding priorities is transportation. Over the years, we have developed position statements and consistently advocated for open and transparent governance. We seek to enhance public knowledge, increase clarity and insist on accountability to the voters. During our discussion, our Board determined that it is important to convey the expectations we have for the governance of this measure, should it be approved by the voters. We call the following matters to your attention.

**Create clear procedural documents which detail how funds will be received and administered:**

We expect that the creation of these documents by the Commission will be done in an open process where members of the public can review the information prior to adoption. It is also important that the documents clearly indicate public participation opportunities and the methods for communicating with the public on the progress of the program and individual projects.

**Create policies and priorities for the disbursement and reprogramming of funds:** The current list of projects will not all be able to start at the same time; therefore, it is important that the public know in advance the funding priorities of the Commission or criteria for selecting different projects. Also, over time, some selected projects will not advance as originally

anticipated. We want to see the most improvements possible and not have funding attached to a project having lengthy implementation difficulties. Reprogramming policies are important to know and understand in advance so that the public can anticipate how this may be accomplished. It is also possible that in time, other high priorities projects which meet the objectives of this measure but are not currently listed will arise. We believe that policies need to be established to understand how these new projects may be considered and potentially be incorporated into the program.

**Create policies and guidelines to measure success:** RM3 will exist over many years and will co-exist with RM1 and RM2. The Commission should establish success criteria for all of the measures which can be used by an oversight committee, the Commission and most importantly the public.

**Create and operate a clear and robust oversight program:** We understand that there will be an oversight committee for this measure. This committee should review financial and programmatic information. Their reports should inform the public how and if the measure's objectives are being met, if project progress is adequate and acceptable and if the revenues are being expended appropriately and wisely. The oversight committee's meeting schedule and materials/reports should be publicly available well before meetings and easily obtainable. Any proceeding should be easy for the public and our League observers to view and participate.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area intends to continue its focus on quality and open regional governance. Transportation is one of our priorities and we are committed to working with the Metropolitan Commission to support regional excellence.

Respectfully,

*Madelíne Kronenberg*

Madeline Kronenberg  
President  
League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

cc:  
Local League Presidents  
SPUR  
Bay Area Council  
Carl Guardino - Silicon Valley Leadership Group  
Jessica Reynolds – Field Campaign Manager

**Nov 2016**



**VOTE YES on MEASURE B1**

**ALAMEDA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT (AUSD) SPECIAL PARCEL TAX**

The League of Women Voters Alameda (LWVA) supports Measure B1 because quality education is an investment in our children's future and is an essential component of a democracy. A quality education system supports Alameda's economy and attracts businesses and families to our community.

Measure B1, if approved, will extend Measure A, which was approved by Alameda voters in 2012. Measure A provides about \$12 million in local funds *each year* to support our schools. Measure A expires in fiscal year 2018, but affects budget planning much sooner. Measure B1 will provide continuity for our schools during the upcoming budget planning process, and much-needed support for our schools through fiscal year 2025.

Measure B1 will generate about \$12 million per year for Alameda schools over seven years through the annual special parcel tax on property in Alameda. Property owners will pay \$0.32 per building square foot with a cap of \$7,999 per parcel. An average homeowner with a 1600 sq. ft. house will continue to pay \$512 per year with Measure B1. Senior citizen homeowners aged 65 and older, and property owners of any age receiving Supplemental Security Income for a disability, will be eligible for the tax exemption.

Measure B1 contains strong accountability provisions. These provisions include the following: (1) a citizens advisory committee to review expenditures, and (2) an independent auditor to report on revenues and expenditures to the Board of Education and the Alameda community.

A recent report released by the California School Boards Association and its Education Legal Alliance found that California is underfunding K-12 schools by as much as \$42 billion annually. Measure B1, like the existing Measure A, enables our local community to maintain current class size, core academics, art, music, athletic programs, and neighborhood schools. Funding stability helps our school district retain excellent teachers.

The LWVA support for Measure B1 is based on its state-level position on education, which states in brief: "Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable: derived from a combination of revenue sources and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for students."

**Nov 2016**



**VOTE YES on MEASURE K1**  
**UTILITY AND MODERNIZATION ACT (UMA)**

The League of Women Voters Alameda (LWVA) supports Measure K1, the Utility Modernization Act (UMA) because it helps fund essential city services and ensures that a particular tax, the Utility Users Tax (UTT), is applied equally to all consumers.

Measure K1 was put on the ballot by action of the Alameda City Council. If approved, this measure would:

1. amend the City Charter to reaffirm the annual transfer of approximately \$3.7 million from Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) to the city's General Fund, adjusted for inflation.
2. amend the existing Utility Users Tax (UTT) ordinance by modernizing the existing ordinance to reflect new and evolving technologies so that all taxpayers are treated equally.

Currently, Alameda Municipal Power (AMP) provides electric services to the City of Alameda. As written in the City Charter, AMP transfers funds annually to the general fund to support essential city services. A new lawsuit challenges the transfers of these funds. The UMA proposes that the Charter be amended to restate the current amount of the transfer, \$3.7 million per year, adjusted annually for inflation. Your support for this measure will safeguard this long-standing revenue source, already included in your current electric rates.

The second part of this measure would define technologies in the Utility Users Tax (UTT) ordinance. First adopted in 1972, the technologies cited in the ordinance have significantly changed. Some cell phone carriers apply the tax correctly and others do not. Measure K1 will amend definitions of telecommunications services to include currently used and envisioned technologies with clear definitions and instructions to service providers. This will ensure that the tax is applied equally to all consumers.

The UTT tax rate of 7.5% is not changing, but it would be applied fairly to all subscribers of such services. Some subscribers will see an increase in their monthly cell phone bills up to \$5.00. Others will see no change. An exemption of 2% of the tax remains for low-income individuals and those 65 and older, resulting in a lower tax rate of 5.5%.

Measure K1 will protect critical funding for 911 and emergency medical response times; police and fire services to keep Alameda safe; street, sidewalk, pothole repairs; maintenance of city parks and recreational facilities; library and senior services; and general services to maintain Alameda's quality of life. The passage of the UUT will not impact salaries or pensions of city employees.

The League of Women Voters Alameda (LWVA) supports Measure K1 based on its state-level position regarding government finance:

- Ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services.
- Contribute to a system of public finance, which emphasizes equity, and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy.
- Include long-range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt.

**Nov 2016**



**VOTE YES on Measure A1 Alameda County Affordable Housing Bond**

Bond measure, 2/3 vote required

Measure A1 authorizes Alameda County to issue \$580 million in bonds, and to use the proceeds to create new affordable rental and homeowner residential units, and to assist existing low-income and vulnerable residents stay in their homes. Bonds will be repaid through annual property tax increases from \$12.50 to \$13.90 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation until 2040. The League supports increasing the affordable housing supply. Measure A1 is a product of many community meetings and recommendations from the public about how the county can best help meet the housing crisis we face in Oakland and across the region.

**VOTE YES on Measure C1 Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District**

Parcel Tax, 2/3 vote required

Measure C1 continues for an additional 20 years the \$96 annual parcel tax to help fund local transportation services. AC Transit provides essential bus and paratransit services, and seeks to keep fares reasonable and schedules useful for everyone + commuters, students, seniors, and the disabled.

**VOTE YES on Measure RR BART Safety, Reliability, and Traffic Relief**

Bond Measure, 2/3 vote required in Alameda, Contra Costa, and San Francisco Counties

Measure RR authorizes the Bay Area Rapid Transit District (BART) to issue and sell up to \$3.5 billion in general obligation bonds to fund infrastructure projects throughout its system. Bonds will be issued in ten series, and will be paid through increasing property taxes. The initial tax rate is estimated to be \$2.02 per \$100,000 of assessed valuation, which could rise to \$17.49 per \$100,000 in FY 2035-36. Measure RR will enable BART to replace 90 miles of track worn down by 44 years of use, repair tunnel walls damaged by water, modernize its electrical infrastructure, replace antiquated train control systems, and increase its ability to carry an ever-increasing number of passengers. The League recognizes the urgent need to repair and rebuild this aging system.



**Nov 2016**

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**RECOMMENDS**

November 8, 2016 GENERAL ELECTION

More info: [bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs](http://bit.ly/LWVCBallotRecs)

**PROP 51 School Bonds: K-12 and Community College YES**

All California's schoolchildren deserve school facilities in good repair and equipped to provide all students a 21st century education. In a perfect world with adequate funding, we wouldn't need to borrow to build. However, this is not a perfect world, and our facilities needs are massive and require a large infusion of funding. It has been eight years since the last statewide bond measure was passed. Chronic underfunding from the state leaves most public school communities unable to adequately address their needs, increasing the danger of greater disparities among them. Many have passed local bonds but due to insufficient state matching funds, that money remains unspent—a situation this bond measure will help remedy.

**PROP 54 California Legislature Transparency Act YES**

Prop 54 will make our state government more open, honest, and accountable. With this common-sense reform, every bill must be in print and posted online for at least 72 hours before it may pass out of either house—preventing last-minute, closed-door changes. A video recording of every public meeting of the Legislature must be posted online in a timely way. Our democracy is stronger when more people participate, and this measure empowers all people to review, debate, and contribute to the laws that impact us all.

**PROP 55 Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act YES**

Proposition 55 is key in maintaining economic recovery and growth in California by continuing the current income tax rates on the wealthiest two percent of Californians, established by the voters in 2012. That measure, Prop 30, has moved California toward financial stability and adequate funding for education and other services we depend on like health care. Without Prop 55 we will be back to the days of pink slips for teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and community college students waiting years for the classes they need.

**PROP 57 Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act YES**

This measure restores the authority of judges, not prosecutors, to decide if juveniles as young as 14 should be tried in adult court, a right judges had until 2000. The prosecution may file a motion, but the court decides. Proposition 57 will also reduce the state prison population and costs by allowing earlier parole of nonviolent felons, with sentence credits for good behavior and rehabilitation or education. This measure could save tens of millions of dollars.

**PROP 58 English Proficiency. Multilingual Education YES**

Proposition 58 repeals the most restrictive parts of Proposition 227, a 1998 initiative that limited the methods California schools can use to teach English to students who are not native English speakers. This measure addresses the inequity of Prop 227 and frees parents and their schools to provide the best educational opportunities for all California children regardless of their first language. The League opposed Prop 227 nearly 20 years ago and urges your support for this change.

**PROP 59 Constitutional Amendment Advisory Measure NO**

Eliminating the corrupting influence of money in our democracy is a vital concern. Unfortunately, this vague, poorly drafted ballot measure is not the solution. A constitutional amendment to overturn *Citizens United* may have appeal as a quick fix, but in reality it is a slow, laborious, costly, and potentially unsuccessful strategy. A poorly written amendment could have significant unintended consequences—not the least of which is squelching actual political speech. Voters deserve a fair election system today, not years or decades from now. Instead of looking to an imagined silver bullet, we need to take broad action now, including fixing our Federal Elections Commission, expanding disclosure laws, overturning California's ban on public financing of elections, and asking a new Supreme Court to revisit the ruling.

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8!**

8/8/2016

**PROP 62 Justice That Works: Death Penalty Abolition YES**

Proposition 62 will **abolish** the death penalty, replacing it with life without possibility of parole. It will ensure time in prison is spent in work, with an increased portion of wages going to restitution to victims' families. Families deserve restitution, not endless legal appeals, and closure through knowing these worst criminals will never be released. California has spent more than \$5 billion to execute 13 people since 1978. Nothing indicates this has been effective in reducing crime, while the risk of executing the innocent remains.

**PROP 66 Shortening Death Penalty Appeals NO**

This poorly written measure would greatly increase California's risk of executing an innocent person by shortening the time for appeals and limiting the prisoner's ability to present new evidence of their innocence. Raising significant constitutional issues, this could cause more delays, increase taxpayers' costs, and add layers of bureaucracy. It is estimated the state would need as many as 400 new taxpayer-funded attorneys to meet the demand. The wise choice is **NO on 66** and **YES on 62** to save costs, provide restitution, and prevent executing innocent people.

**PROP 63 Safety for All Act YES**

The facts are sobering. From 2002 to 2013, 38,576 Californians died from gun violence, including 2,258 children. In the U.S., more than 300 Americans are shot **each day**, more than 80 of them **fatally**. Prop 63 helps counter those statistics by strengthening background check systems and ensuring that California law enforcement shares data about dangerous people with the FBI. It ensures that dangerous criminals and domestic abusers sell or transfer their firearms after they're convicted. This measure requires businesses that sell ammunition to report lost or stolen ammunition, requires people to notify law enforcement if their guns are lost or stolen, and ensures that people convicted of gun theft are ineligible to own guns.

**PROP 65 Sowing Confusion about the Plastic Bag Ban NO**

Don't be confused by this deceptive measure—vote NO. Large players in the plastic bag industry spent millions to put this disingenuous initiative on the ballot, creating a distraction that could thwart California's efforts to rein in plastic bag waste and litter. The plastic bag industry wants to use this measure to damage the hard-won agreement between environmentalists and grocers that made the plastic bag ban possible. This is not about helping fund environmental programs but is simply intended to cause enough voter confusion that the more significant environmental measure, Proposition 67, fails. Don't be confused; **Vote NO on 65** and **Vote YES on 67**.

**PROP 67 Protect California's Plastic Bag Ban YES**

The League urges a YES vote on Proposition 67 to retain California's plastic bag ban. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; you are being asked if you want to retain the new law. Vote YES to keep the 2014 statewide law prohibiting single-use carryout bags. These plastic film bags pollute our oceans, pose a deadly threat to marine wildlife, clutter our landscapes, create toxic byproducts when manufactured, and are very difficult to recycle. California grocers and other retailers support the ban, and many cities and counties have local measures that are working. Don't let out-of-state plastic bag industry players stop our progress!

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**NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT**

**PROP 56 Cigarette Tax NEUTRAL**

Proposition 56 establishes an increased tax on cigarettes, with the money collected from this tax earmarked for health care and tobacco use prevention. The League does not generally support earmarks but is **neutral** on this measure because of the benefits from reducing smoking and the increased funding for health care.

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Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking **no stand** on **Prop 52** (State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds), **Prop 53** (Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval), **Prop 60** (Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements), **Prop 61** (State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards), and **Prop 64** (Marijuana Legalization).

**VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8!**