

2014 is an election year. Support the LWV Alameda.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Kate Quick – Co-President

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Felice Zensius – Co-President

felicez@ymail.com



For many, the months of September and October represent back to school, fall leaves, crisp air, longer days, big full moons, and harvest festivals. For the stalwart Leaguer, these months are all that, but over all, they are all about voter education. Fall elections traditionally happen on the first Tuesday in November. With the advent of vote by mail popularity, people are seeking election information for a month before that – as soon as they get those ballots in the mail, we start getting questions and requests for our printed and electronic materials.

There are several important resources for our voters – SmartVoter.org, a

website that may be used to see what your ballot will look like by simply entering your address and has plenty of information about the issues and the candidates. The Easy Voter Guide, a simple explanation of the issues and what it means to vote yes or no. Pros and Cons on the ballot measures, our more in-depth information on the issues, found on our State web site. The sample ballot and ballot pamphlet mailed to you by the Office of the Secretary of State. Newspaper articles and op-ed pieces. Web sites for proponents and opponents of propositions and local measures.

For a real live look/see/hear the candidates, voters can attend one of our forums (see article in this VOTER for dates, times and places.) We also are holding forums for our state propositions and local measures. All this takes a lot of planning and preparation which is our task.

It is a basic and foundational principle of the League that we never support or oppose candidates for office. However, we do take stands on measures related to issues we have studied and on which we have existing positions. Sometimes this leads to confusion in the minds of the public. How can the League do non-partisan neutral voter education on a subject they are endorsing or opposing? Won't they just be giving biased information?

Well, no. In our nearly 100 years as an organization, we have jealously guarded the separation between what we call Education and what we call Advocacy. Advocacy does only that; Education stays neutral. Miracle of Miracles, it works! And to prove it works, polls consistently put the League over the 90th percentile in "trusted organization for voter information".

We are proud to be so trusted. We are proud of the work we do to educate voters and to advocate for positions on matters we have studied. We go forth every election cycle to do our work, confident in our ability to do our chosen work well. Join us!

Kate Quick, Co-President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



OCTOBER

- Thursday October 2 Ballot Measures Pros & Cons –
7:00 pm Mastick
- Friday October 3 First Friday Social Dinner –
5:30 pm McGees's 1645 Park Street, Alameda
- Wednesday October 8 Candidate Forum –
7:00 pm Mastick Assembly and Health Care District
- Thursday October 9 Candidate Forum –
7:00 pm Mastick City Council and Mayor
- Thursday October 16 Candidate Forum –
7:00 pm Mastick AUSD Board & Alameda County
School Superintendent
- Thursday October 23 Board Meeting –
7:00 pm Alameda Hospital
- Monday October 27 Book Club –
3:00 pm Applebee's

Save these dates in **NOVEMBER**

Tuesday November 4 – VOTE!

Thursday November 13 – Discussion – Main Library

"Are we Prepared for the Big One"

Monday, November 24 – Book Club – Applebee's

The Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown

ACTION COMMITTEE

Karen Butter – Chairperson

karenbutter@comcast.net



VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE – BALLOT RECOMMENDATIONS

California State Proposition 2: State Budget. Budget Stabilization Account – Yes

Rainy Day Fund--State Budget Reserves--The LWVC supports Prop 2 because it takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government. It requires the state to make contributions to its rainy day reserve fund and pay down debts and liabilities when times are good, with increased contributions in years when revenues spike upwards. In bad times, those reserves can be used to reduce cuts in spending on schools, health care, public safety, and other vital services. Prop 2 requires joint action of the Governor and the Legislature to reduce the amount put in or to take money out of the rainy day fund

California State Proposition 47: Criminal Sentences. Misdemeanor Penalties – Yes

Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act--Prop 47 will ensure that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and will maximize alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime. The savings generated will be invested in prevention and support programs in K-12 schools, victim services, and mental health and drug treatment. Prop 47 will change low-level nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors; sentences for people convicted of dangerous crimes like rape, murder, and child molestation will not be changed. The League believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime.

California State Proposition 1: Water Bond – Neutral

The LWVC could enthusiastically support many of the projects funded by Prop 1, such as the cleanup and prevention of polluted groundwater; drinking and

wastewater treatment projects; and water recycling, rainwater capture, conservation, and water-use efficiencies that will help reduce demand on water resources over the long term. However, we have serious concerns that the measure favors large surface water storage projects and gives control over that spending to a commission composed of political appointees with no budgetary oversight by the legislature. Balancing the positive and negative aspects of the measure, we remain **neutral**

Alameda County Measure BB – Yes

The League of Women Voters of Alameda along with the Alameda County Council of Leagues of Women Voters support the Alameda County Transportation Sales Tax, Measure BB, which would increase the current half cent per dollar sales tax for transportation and infrastructure to one cent and extended to April 1, 2045. Over this 30-year period, the revenues from the tax are expected to be almost \$8 billion. Over three quarters of this amount would be allocated to two categories: maintenance and repair of local streets and roads and transit, including paratransit. Lesser amounts would be used for bicycle and pedestrian projects, to fund a pilot project for transit passes for high school students, to maintain and improve freeways and highways, and to expand carpool lanes for the use of solo drivers who pay a toll. Projects and programs funded through Measure BB will be subject to audits of performance and cost-effectiveness and an Independent Watchdog Committee will be established with annual reports to taxpayers. The League supports a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled, is cost effective and serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs.

Alameda Unified School District Measure I – Yes

Measure I will fund the specific new school facilities and upgrades throughout the Alameda Unified School District included in the district's Facilities Master Plan and Implementation Plan B. About half of the bond would fund upgrades and renovations to AUSD's existing neighborhood elementary and middle schools. The remainder would help renovate and/or replace the existing high

school facilities, depending on the outcome of future district-led community deliberations. Measure I, which needs a 55% majority to pass, includes requirements for citizen oversight and annual audits of all expenditures. Bond funds cannot be used to pay for either previous bonds or administrative salaries. The League supports equitable access to education and the “fundamental elements that must be present to create a teaching and learning environment that provides access and equitable opportunity for all children...” These elements include “a safe school environment (and) clean, healthy facilities in good repair, with seating for all students...”

The League has no position on the remaining state ballot propositions – Proposition 45, 46 and 48.

Why are parcel taxes required for Measures BB?

Prior to Proposition 13, voters set their property taxes at the level they deemed necessary to pay for essential community services such as schools. Property taxes could be increased by a simple majority vote. The base property tax was based on a home's actual market value, so as a property's value increased, so did tax revenues.

In 1978, Proposition 13 brought about major restrictions on funding for local government and "special districts," such as cities, counties and school districts.

- Taxes on property were limited to 1 percent of a property's assessed value, and
- A property's assessed value was subject to a 2 percent annual growth ceiling. No longer would tax revenues increase in step with increases in a property's market value. Reassessment to coincide with market value was permitted only when a property changed ownership.

Proposition 13 acknowledged that this new model might not yield sufficient funds for essential services, and permitted special taxes beyond the constitutional limit, but only if both of the following requirements were met:

- a community agreed to the special tax by a two-thirds or greater vote; and
- the tax was a fixed amount per parcel of property (as opposed to being based on a property's value).

The impact of Proposition 13 on cities, counties, and school districts was enormous. Property tax revenue growth became limited because assessed values began to fall, on average, further and further below actual market values. Furthermore, the limitations imposed by Prop. 13 made it much more difficult for cities, counties, and school districts to obtain new revenue to keep up with rising costs or expand programs.

[Text adapted from "Campaign for Excellence in Palo Alto Public Schools," 2005 and Ballotpedia.]

BOARD ACTION

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS of ALAMEDA

BOARD MINUTES

September 18, 2014

Conference Room C, Alameda Hospital

PRESENT: Mari Clark, Kate Quick, Ted Frey, Earleen Hamlin, Donna Vaughn, Gayle Thomas, Marian Breitbart, Karen Butter, Li Volin, Shuba Fanse, Ruth Dixon-Muller, Felice Zensius.

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting called to order at 7 p.m. by Kate Quick.

MINUTES: Minutes of the Annual Board Retreat, August 9, 2014 were accepted and filed. Ruth requested a Calendar of Events, 2014–2015.

October 23 Board Meeting
October 2 State and Local Ballot Measures
October 8 City of Alameda Health Care District Board,
Assembly District 18 Candidates.
October 9 City Council and Mayoral Candidates
October 16 AUSD Board of Trustees, Alameda County
Superintendent of Schools.
October Membership Renewal Opens
Positions Committee Meets/Due date Jan.
November 20 Board Meeting
November 13 General Meeting. Disaster Preparedness.
December 18 Board Meeting, tentative
December 7 Holiday party at Li's
January 15 Board Meeting
January 22 Program Review Meeting
February 15 Board Meeting: submit program decisions to State League.
Choose delegates for LWVC convention MYPO planning update
February 26 General meeting. Receive committee Financial needs.
March 19 Board. Report from Nominating Committee
March 26 General Meeting – Health Care?
March Submit Draft Budget
April 16 Board. Set call date for Annual Meeting.
Board to Adopt budget proposal, slate and program recommendations.
April 23 MYPO
April 16 Annual Mtg Kit Out
May 21 Board
May 28 General Meeting
May 15 State Convention
June 13 Annual Meeting
July 25 Annual Board Retreat

TREASURER'S REPORT:

M–Ted S–Donna Carried.

To do nothing at this time re. increase in dues. Change will be implemented when we have data from both national and state.

August 31: Cash balance \$11,011, CD \$10,070. No outstanding obligations. This is slightly less than 8/14 balance of \$11,378.

July/August: Receipts \$70 (new member) Expenses \$3970 (PMP)

BUDGET: Ted makes the following recommendations for study and decision in November.

--Value of monies spent in Alameda Sun. Need to consult with them, try to monitor results.

--Drop Chamber of Commerce membership; review in November.

--Reduce or cancel videography, after review of efficacy.

He presented an annotated updated Budget Fiscal Analysis.

BOARD ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

--LWVCC - Kate signed the Measure BB Ballot Argument. She also wrote a letter to the editor re. LWVCC position.

--Kate and Felice gave an Annual Retreat Debrief.

--No comment re. participation in National Voter Registration Day other than facebook page.

--Alice Wilson Fried will not be chairing MYPO this year. There was discussion re. a strategy to hold a successful event. A committee to be appointed to choose a chair and committee, and report in October.

PROS AND CONS ON MEASURE I

Bram Briggance presented the Pro position. There was no Con representative. Pros and Cons of the measure were discussed.

M-Ted S-Felice Carried

To vote on endorse the measure by secret ballot.

Results: Yes - 7 No - 2 No Position - 1.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Action: Juelle Ann is gathering a local database for Alameda officials for CFR. There are many bills in the legislature. Ten are supported by LWVC.

Program VP:

October: Candidate Forums

November: "Are We Ready for the Big One?" Nov. 13 in the Library. Red Cross/AFD confirmed, two pending.

December: Holiday Party on 12/7 at Li's.

Harbor Bay/Ron Cowan issues were suggested as a program meeting. Ruth reminded members of the importance of frequent fb updates. Ruth is

recruiting volunteers to help with the Forums.

Communications:

Mari reported she has adjusted the Mailchimp program template. Mari does Mailchimp, Jon the facebook posting, Mike website. Need to gather the committee and agree on flow chart of info.

Membership:

117 current members; six deaths last year. Discussion of how to recognize members who have belonged 60 years or more.

Next membership even is 9/22.

Voter Services;

Dates and venues for Pros and Cons/ Candidate Forums set.

Still need volunteers to speak at Pro & Cons and other chores.

Nominating Committee

Audrey and Marilyn are serving as co-chairs. They are contacting current office holders to update job descriptions with the goal of being able to give accurate information to prospective officers. They will meet to share information n October 1. Committee consists of Ted, Ruth, Marilyn E.A..

Ongoing Business:

Committee chairs to turn in committee roster, time and dates of meetings to the Voter.

New Business:

Kate will follow up with Alice to ask if she would want to advise a MYPO committee.

Next Meeting: 10/23 to replace the usual 10/16 meeting due to Forum conflict.

Respectively submitted;

Earleen Hamlin

Secretary

BOOK CLUB

Anne Spanier – Chairperson
annespanierleague@att.net



On Monday October 27 the LWVA book club will meet to discuss "The True American" by Anand Giridharadas. Raisuddin Bhuiyan, an immigrant from Bangladesh is shot by a Texan who proclaims himself to be 'loud and proud' and out to kill Muslims. In the years that follow Raisuddin comes to grips with much misfortune. However, he comes to fight for the life of his attacker whom we learn is as much a victim as Raisuddin.

The group meets at Applebee's restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center from 3 – 4:30 pm on the 4th Monday of the month. Contact Anne Spanier at (510) 522-3426 for additional information.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Ruth Dixon-Mueller – Chairperson
dixonmueller@yahoo.com



October marks the opening of membership renewal for 2015!

Dues are \$70 for a single membership, \$97 for couples and families, and \$25 for students. If you'd like your copy of The Voter mailed to you, add \$10.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP by mailing a check payable to LWV Alameda to P.O. Box 1645, Alameda CA 94501.

Include your name, mailing address, phone number, and email. If you prefer that any of this information NOT be printed in the Membership Directory, do let us know so we can honor your request!

This is also Election season, a great time for recruiting new members to join with us in our many voter education and other outreach activities in the community.

If you know anyone who might be interested, please let me know and I'll get in touch and mail a membership application. Membership applications are also available at all of our public forums.

Urge your friends to JOIN THE LEAGUE!
VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE in NOVEMBER!

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Gayle Thomas – Chairperson

blaze00031@aol.com



Greetings from your Program Chair!

We are now heavy into our election season and are as usual, offering our highly anticipated Candidate Forums and Ballot Measure Pros & Cons in October.

We encourage all members and supporters of the League to come out and attend these events.

Three Public Candidate Forums plus Ballot Measure Pros & Cons for the November 4 Election

October 2, 8, 9, 16 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Mastick Senior Center - Social Hall

1155 Santa Clara Avenue (at St. Charles)

- **THU, OCT 2: State, Local Ballot Measure Pros & Cons**
- **WED, OCT 8: City of Alameda Health Care District Board & Assembly District 18 Candidates**
- **THU, OCT 9: City Council and Mayoral Candidates**
- **THU, OCT 16: AUSD Board of Trustees & Alameda County Superintendent of Schools**

SAVE THE DATE:

**November 13th 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Main Library**

"ARE WE PREPARED FOR THE "BIG ONE"?"

Join the League and Local/City/County Resources to discuss the City's plan for taking care of citizens in a disaster.

- Is Alameda ready?
- What resources are available for us?
- What do we need for ourselves and families to be personally prepared?

INFO: http://www.LWVAlameda.org/Public_Events.html

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Connie Slattery-Hanna – Chairperson

connie.hanna@comcast.net

Our next Friday Social will be at McGees Bar & Grill, 1645 Park Street, Alameda on Friday October 3.

Social Hour 5:30. Dinner 6:00.

RSVP no later than noon on 10/3/14

TREASURER'S REPORT

Marian Breitbart – Chairperson

mbreitbart@mac.com



TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF AUGUST 31, 2014

The League remains in a strong cash position. We have a cash balance of \$11,011 and a CD containing \$10,070. We have no outstanding obligations at this time. This is slightly less than the August 2014 balance of \$11,378.

During July/August, we received \$70 and spent \$3,970 mainly for PMP payments to the California and National League. Our receipts were one new membership.

Not a member of the League of Women Voters of Alameda?

Go to http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/join_form.html to download a membership form.

The League relies on membership dues and donations to support our educational programs, candidates forums, and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of Alameda is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your membership dues and donations are tax deductible. You can download a contribution form at http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/donate_form.html.

League of Women Voters of Alameda Board of Directors 2014 - 2015

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