



2020 Annual Meeting Kit

CALL TO (VIRTUAL) ANNUAL MEETING via teleconferencing

Members of the League of Women Voters of Alameda are invited to the Annual Meeting to approve a budget and issues of emphasis for action and to elect a new Board

Saturday, June 20th, 12:45-2:30 PM

12:45 Virtual Gathering

1:00 State Senator Nancy Skinner

1:15 Call to Order

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2:30 Adjourn

Please have this Kit with you when you join the virtual meeting!



RULES OF THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING

1. QUORUM

The meeting shall not begin until a quorum is present. In accordance with Article IX, Section 4 of the By-Laws, 21 members shall constitute a quorum.

2. ELIGIBILITY

In accordance with Article IX, Section 6 of the By-Laws, the Board has set the record date for establishment of notice and voting rights to the 2020 Annual Meeting as May 20, 2020. Members who are current in payment of dues as of that date are eligible to receive notice and vote at the Annual Meeting. Article IX, Section 3 prohibits absentee and proxy voting.

3. WRITTEN MOTIONS

Brief motions should be submitted in writing to the Chat Box during the virtual meeting on June 20, 2020,

4. DEBATE TIME

There shall be two minutes per member for debate. Members and guests who are not eligible to vote on motions may not speak to them during debate. No one may speak for a second time on a given item until others wishing to speak have had their turns. Each speaker shall address all remarks to the Chair and shall limit such remarks to the item being considered. There shall be no interruption of the speaker while the presentation is being given. The moderator of the Meeting shall have the authority to announce the total time dedicated to debate on a given matter when there are many wishing to speak. Time will be allowed at the end of the meeting, as is our custom, for "Directions to the Board", following which guests may add brief comments.

5. PROGRAM ADOPTION (Referring to New and Ongoing Studies, Position Updates or Position Review for Adoption of Concurrence with another League's Position)

- a. Each recommended program item shall be moved and seconded, but there will be no vote on any item until all items (recommended and non-recommended) have been discussed. A majority vote is needed to adopt a recommended item.
- b. Any non-recommended program item may be moved for consideration by a majority vote of members present and voting. A two-thirds vote in favor is needed to adopt a non-recommended item. Non-recommended studies require a prepared scope, budget, and name of proposed chair.
- c. The vote will be taken on recommended items (with possible amendments) in the order moved, followed by the vote on non-recommended items. Amendments may be deletions from, but not additions to, program positions.

6. NOMINATIONS

Additional nominations for Officers, Directors, and the Nominating Committee may be made from the floor, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured in writing in advance of the meeting.

7. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Must be related to existing positions, whether local, state or national, and are not considered to be the same as Program. An action item may be adopted by a simple majority of those voting. Debate of Board recommended action items is limited to ten minutes and will be moderated by the President.



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 22, 2019
PASTA PELICAN RESTAURANT**

Guest Speaker: Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor, City of Alameda

Call to Order: 12:50 pm LWVA president Georgia Gates Derr

Credentials Report: Doris Gee reported there were 38 eligible voting members present, meeting the quorum requirement of 21 voting members.

Parliamentarian: Sally Faulhaber was introduced as the Parliamentarian.

Adoption – Order of Business and Rules of the Meeting: A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to adopt the Order of Business and Rules of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes: A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2018 Annual Meeting. Kate Quick, Ken Werner and Dorothy Kerwin volunteered to review the 2019 Annual Meeting minutes.

Introduction of LWVA Presidents and Guests: Past Presidents Lena Tam, Karen Butter, Lynne Groh and Kate Quick introduced themselves. Georgia noted the recent passing of Joan Narahara.

Treasurer’s Report: Adina Singer presented the report for the first nine months of 2019-2020 as contained in the Annual Meeting Kit. The balance sheet as of March 31, 2019 shows a general fund balance of \$30,817.14 (up \$2,965.12 from the same time last year) and a certificate of deposit of \$10,108.61. The report will be placed on file.

Presentation of 2018-2019 Budget Report: Adina Singer presented the 2019-2020 Proposed Budget, with minor changes as shown on the addendum distributed to attendees. She noted that the Operating Income/loss shown on the addendum should show a projected loss (not gain) of \$12,151. This is double the loss projected for the previous fiscal year (although there was, in fact, a gain).

Approval of Budget: Following the presentation and discussion of the recommended program for 2019-2020 (see below), a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve the 2019-2020 Budget as presented. It will be placed on file.

President’s Message: Georgia Gates Derr congratulated LWVA’s talented volunteers for their teamwork and listed the many events and activities sponsored by LWVA over the past year. Noting that this meeting marks the end of her two-year term, Susan Hauser thanked Georgia for her good humor and her passionate commitment to the League and to Making Democracy Work. She will be missed.

Recommended Program: Action co-chairs Karen Butter and Felice Zensius directed members to the recommended program for 2019-2020 in the Annual Meeting kit. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously carried to approve the program as follows:

Local:

- Retain all existing Local positions
- No new study or update study for 2019-2020
- Adopt as Issues for Emphasis for 2019-2020:
 - Schools and Communities First
 - Campaign Finance Reporting
 - Civics Education and Voter Registration in High Schools
 - Transparency and Good Government



State: Making Democracy Work in California, Environment/Natural Resources, Health Care, and Tax Reform

National: Campaign for Making Democracy Work with four priority areas: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting

Nominating Committee: Anne McKereghan presented the slate of board members nominated for 2019-2020 as listed in the addendum to the Annual Meeting Kit. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to elect the slate as presented.

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting:

President	Susan Hauser
Administration VP	Anne McKereghan
Program VP	William (Bill) Smith
Membership VP	Doris Gee
Secretary	Ruth Dixon-Mueller
Treasurer	Adina Singer

Directors elected at the Annual Meeting:

Action chair	Karen Butter
Communications chair	Keasha Martindill
Fundraising chair	Paul Lindstrom
Voter Service co-chair	Ken Werner
Youth Outreach chair	Laura Kinley
Bay Area League Liaison	Sally Faulhaber
Bay Area League Liaison	Kate Quick
Member at large	Anna Crane

Nominating Committee for 2020 elected at the Annual Meeting (two board members to be appointed by the incoming Board of Directors) Dorie Guess Behrstock, Cynthia Silva. The third position remains open.

Directions to the Board:

Several members urged the Board to consider additional methods of raising money, including possible dues increases, grants, requests to individual members, and a fundraising workshop

Announcements:

- Susan Hauser reported on the State League Convention. Susan, Laura Kinley and Alice Fried attended as delegates. Our League won two of the ten presentation slots for local projects, for Allan Mann’s work on campaign finance charts and Alice’s work with the Youth Speech Contest.
- Ken Werner noted that we have new voter registration affidavits. He is seeking volunteers to distribute affidavits to Alameda locales and to be trained in the use of the new forms.
- Anne McKereghan announced that First Friday dinners in Sept., Oct. and Nov. will be at Spin Pizza.
- Laura Kinley reported that she is looking for funders, consultants and an advisory committee to work with her on the Civics Challenge quiz project with high school students planned for next year.
- Karen Butter reminded members of the City Charter review for community members on June 26th and 27th in which volunteers from the League will be facilitating discussions of the six topics.

Adjourned 2:15 PM

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Recording Secretary



TREASURER’S REPORT, FY 2020 through 3/31

Cash on hand 3/31/2020

Checking Account - Bank Of Marin	\$32,309
Certificate of Deposit - Bank of Marin	\$10,119
Money Market Account - First Internet	\$ 5,005
Total Assets	\$47,433

Operating Statement

Receipts	\$26,165
Expenditures	\$15,457
Gain/(loss) from Operations	\$10,709

Anna Crane, Treasurer

FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 PROPOSED BUDGET

	Committees	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Budgeted	FY 2020 YTD	FY 2021 Proposed
Forums	Programs				
· Room Rentals	Voter Services	\$610	\$1,410	\$1,035	\$3,000
· Videotaping	Action	700	800	188	480
· Publicity	Communications	776	1,295	1,438	1,813
· Supplies		193	300	461	650
Membership	Membership				
· Annual Meeting		1,540	100	0	100
· Postage		125	200	0	200
· Dues Refund				97	
· Annual/renewal kits,		228	400		
Dir				794	800
Voter Services	Voter Services				
· Printing	Communications	710	300	0	1500
· Registration events		1,060	990		2,000
· Voter’s Edge		1,250			
Contribution			1,500	1,500	1,750
· Publicity		373	477	107	600
Advocacy	Action				
· Publications	Communications	373	50		400
League Administration					
· Per Member -BA	Administrative	6,293	342	352	238
· Per Member-CA			3,192	2,467	2,226



· Per Member-US			3,648	3,760	2,544
· National/State		4,145	6,750	822	3,000
Meeting					
Office Expenses	Administrative				
· Post office box rental	Communication	112	116	122	130
· Stamps	Budget	125		33	100
· Web site maintenance		397	400	469	100
· Supplies		37			100
· Printing					100
· State fees			20	20	20
Youth Outreach	Outreach				
· Speech Contest		1,567	1,800		2,690
· Civics Challenge/Fake news					2,200
Board Expenses	Administrative				
· Board retreat		199	200		200
· Insurance		56	100		100
· Chamber Dues			125	175	175
· Board tools		108	100	72	100
· Administration misc.		200		1	200
Centennial				1543	100
Fundraising	Fundraising				
· Meet Your Public Officials ?	Communication s	1,115	1,500		321

Totals \$22,292 \$26,115 \$15,457 \$27,937
 (YTD expenses through 3/31/20)

Income	FY 2019 Actual	FY 2020 Budgeted	FY 2020 YTD	FY 2021 Proposed
Legacy grant	0	0	10,000	10,000
MYPO	6,790	5,500	0	0
Individual contributions	677	1,000	7,481	5,000
Dues	8,770	8,052	6,529	6,500
Projects	300	350	150	150
Youth Outreach/Debate Scholarship	2,501	1,800	1,000	1,000
Other Fundraising	709	0	1,000	1,000
Interest	0	0	5	200
Total	\$19,747	\$16,702	\$26,165	\$23,850

Projected deficit	\$-4,088		
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LWVA COMMITTEE REPORTS 2019-2020

Action Committee

LWVC Issues: Schools and Communities First: Statewide supporters of Schools and Communities First decided to refile the Initiative to change a few issues expressed by various group. Under the outstanding leadership of Bill Smith, 12 LWVA members collected more than 524 signatures with Bill Smith collecting more than half. His most enjoyable signature-gathering event was the Oakland Turkey Trott! The 1.7 million signatures were the most ever in California for an initiative, which will appear on the November 2020 ballot.

LWVC Legislation: The Action Committee reported on a number of California bills recommended by LWVC during the year. Members can follow the issues at www.lwvc.org and www.lwvalameda.org. Bill status is available at: www.leginfo.legislature.ca.gov.

Money in Politics: The LWVA's process for posting campaign contributions to city and school board candidates and measures in easily-read graphic form on its website -- first used during the November 2018 election cycle -- was utilized again for a special election in April 2019 to determine whether a proposed homeless respite shelter should be built on surplus federal land. Contributions to campaigns for and against the proposal were tallied by whether they came from within or outside Alameda; whether they were from individuals, businesses, or community organizations; and whether they were large or small. A list of major contributors and a chart showing the amount of contributions per vote were also presented. LWVA will also continue its dialogue with city council members and the mayor on the importance of developing appropriate campaign finance regulations for Alameda.

Transparency: The League sent letters and spoke before the City Council on two significant issues. One urged the Council to release the transcript and tapes of a meeting between the former City Manager and 2 councilmembers related to the hiring of a new policy chief. The LWVA felt there was a strong public interest in the discussion. The tapes and transcripts were eventually released. Another letter resulted from a complaint filed with the City's Open Government Commission around procedures the council followed in enacting a new ordinance. The Open Government Commission agreed with the complainant that the Council violated the Sunshine Ordinance, but the council overturned the ruling by a vote of 3-2 (Ayes Daysog, Oddie and Ashcraft; Noes Knox White and Vella). The League spoke and filed letters supporting the Open Government Commission ruling but the Council stripped the enforcement remedy from the Sunshine Ordinance, to which the LWVA strongly objected.

Review of Alameda City Charter Changes: Alameda City partnered with the League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) to solicit ideas about potential changes to the City Charter. League members met with a subcommittee of the City Council to develop a program to gather public opinion on 6 possible charter changes. Six league members presented the changes at 2 public meetings. Changes to the Charter may appear on the November 2020 ballot.

Local Measures: The Action Committee developed Pros and Cons and League Recommendations for two local measures.

- **Stormrunoff Fee** - The City proposed an added assessment to property owners 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 Action Committee prepared Pros and Cons and the LWVA voted to endorse the 2019 Water Quality and Flood Protection Fee. [It passed]
- **Parcel Tax for School Employee Salaries** - The Action Committee developed Pros and Cons for the March 3 Ballot Measure to raise \$10,500,000 annually to retain and attract high-quality Alameda Unified School District employees. The tax will fund employee salaries for 7-years. While the LWVA voted to support the Measure A we expressed concerns that school funding is a state not local issue and that this is a short-term solution. [Measure A passed with 67.1%]

Karen Butter and Feliz Zensius, Co-chairs



Centennial Committee

This was an exciting year for the League of Women Voters as we marked 100 years of Empowering Voters and Defending Democracy. Our committee planned a number of events to celebrate this historic milestone beginning in January with two large outdoor banners displayed on Park and Webster Streets to mark the start of our Centennial Year.

Mayor Marilyn Ezzy-Ashcraft and members of the City Council helped to celebrate the occasion with a Mayoral Proclamation at the February Council meeting recognizing February 14, 2020 as the 100th birthday of LWV!

The LWV Alameda joined hundreds of other Leagues around the country for a Day of Action on February 14th as we held our birthday celebration with live music, lively conversation and a delicious ice cream cake with all the trimmings at everyone's favorite birthday spot – Tuckers Ice Cream! To add a touch of authenticity, our Board members dressed in period costumes as we greeted League members and supporters.

Special thanks to Erica Zimmerman and the staff at Tuckers for their generous support. And huge thanks to the talented musicians of Who's Feeling Young Now – Nico Quale, Lucy Kadder, Silas Jude and Teo Quale -- for sharing their passion for bluegrass music. They certainly helped to make it a fun and memorable event!

As a key part of our celebration we asked our members to honor the Centennial Year with a special donation along with their membership dues this year. The response has been hearty and heartwarming. But the end of April, contributions to LWVA's Centennial Fund reached \$7,200! A huge thank you to all who contributed.

While the current shelter in place has cancelled our remaining film showing, Fourth of July parade participation and other events, we're grateful to everyone who helped to make this a joyful Centennial celebration. A huge thanks to the committee members, Anna Crane and Ruth Dixon-Mueller, who contributed their time, talent, and creativity. Thanks to all of our Board members, especially to Keasha Martindill who helped us spread the word, and Susan Hauser who gave her full support to all of our Centennial events.

Sheila Durkin, Chair

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee's goal is to effectively convey the work of our League. Our team generates and manages publicity through multiple media channels: website, newsletter, eBlasts, news releases to print and on-line news sources, and social media. Highlights of this program year were as follows.

- Published six issues of the VOTER newsletter.
- Coordinated the filming and promoted the video of three LWVA events.
- Continued use of Facebook to publicize 30 LWVA events, and matters of interest to the League. Our Facebook admin group made 75 posts this past year, and grew our audience from 684 to 795 people who like and follow us. Each month, on average, our posts reached nearly 4,600 people, and achieved over 200 engagements (i.e., readers liked, clicked or shared the post they saw).
- Crafted and sent 32 eBlasts (most on a twice-monthly basis) to members and friends of the League. Over 36% of recipients (including non-members) read our eBlasts, well above the industry standard of 22% for nonprofits. Our eBlast audience remains steady at 500 active subscribers.
- Kept website updated regularly, and added quality content that included a new Voter FAQ webpage. This past year, our website attracted 9,524 unique visitors, a 165% increase over the previous year.
- Improved our website speed. Before October of 2019, our site loaded very slowly for visitors using a mobile phone, and at an acceptable, medium-range speed for visitors using a computer.
- Due to search engine optimizations we made to our website, it is now at the top of search engine results (i.e. on the first page) when individuals query the Internet to find certain information. For example, LWVA is typically the first website listed for the Google query "Voter Advocacy Alameda" and



“Pros and Cons Alameda;” third website for “Voter Information Alameda, near the top for “Volunteer Alameda” and in the first eight for “Donate Alameda” and “Civics 101”.

The Communication Committee’s goals for 2020-2021 are to:

- Keep using social media to promote LWVA events and engage local voters/residents about the laws and policies that affect them.
- Ensure that our website easy to navigate, and updated with our organization’s latest activities and legislative efforts.
- Maintain or website at the top of search results when Alamedans query the Internet to find info on voting or other League issues.
- Strengthen collaborative relationships with other local organizations by sharing their events--which align with LWV positions--to our social media and email subscribers, and website visitors.

Your Communications Team during the past year included Anna Crane (eBlasts), Miska Kazda (Voter Editor), Keasha Martindill (social media, publicity, website), and our new Communications Committee Vice-Chair, Wendy Shiraki-Raphael, who joined us in April of this year. A special thank you to Doris Gee who took great photos at League events, and made several Facebook posts for us this past year.

Please consider volunteering for the Communication Committee! We provide training, and all efforts can be done from your home on a time schedule that works for you. Email communications@lwvalameda.org.

Keasha Martindill, Chair

Membership Committee

The new Shelter in Place rule has not slowed down the Membership Committee. We now invite new members for “virtual” coffee to discuss our activities and volunteer opportunities. Although we cannot physically meet, we encourage the active participation of all of our members in transitioning to online events. We currently have **124** men and women members. When you join you are part of a bigger national organization over 500,000 members strong. You can easily join or renew online at www.LWVAAlameda.org. Know that your membership dues add to our grassroots strength and our financial resources.

If you are willing to share your skills and time with us even on a one-time basis, please let us know. We try to match your interests with our various committees. Visit www.LWVAAlameda.org/volunteer.html to learn about the opportunities we offer: every committee is listed here. In spite of all the wonderful social media and technology, nothing beats the good old-fashioned connections that our new members need when joining a group such as ours.

Here are some things you can do to stay informed about events and issues:

- Check your email for upcoming events with eblasts on the 1st and 15th of the month.
- Sign up for a FREE *Bay Area Monitor* with news about the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area at www.bayareamonitor.org or on [Facebook.com/bayareamonitor](https://www.facebook.com/bayareamonitor).
- The California State League of Women Voters has a great page to sign up and get action alerts at lwvc.org/stay-informed.
- Join us on *Facebook: League of Women Voters of Alameda*. Please “like” us on a Facebook and check back often for the latest information. We have also been holding informal get-togethers at members’ homes for prospective members (bring your friends!), many of whom have joined.

A big thank you to the membership committee, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Marian Brietbart, Ken Werner, Linda Garvin, Marilyn Ng, Sharon Schainker, Dorie Guess Behrstock and Mari Clark, and to Doug Neu for technical support. A membership representative is at every League event. The membership committee virtually meets the last Wednesday of each month at 9AM. Would you like to come visit us? Email dorisgee48@gmail.com.

Doris L. Gee, Chair



Program Committee

The Program Committee organizes free community forums to educate Alameda residents on topics of local interest and to improve the community's understanding of and participation in the democratic process. We also provide logistical support for LWVA's election forums. Highlights of the 2019-2020 season:

Relieving the Housing Crisis in Alameda & the Region: What Can We Do? (Oct. 2019) A panel of speakers representing business, government and low-income residents proposed regulatory and policy changes needed to facilitate the construction of lower-cost housing in the area. Speakers included Xiamara Cisneros of the Bay Area Council, Sophia deWitt of the East Bay Housing Organizations, Louis Liss of Eden Housing, and Joe Ernst of srmERNST, a corporate member of Alameda Point Partners.

Schools and Communities First (Oct. 2019) Helen Hutchinson, past president, and current interim Executive Director of LWV California, presented LWVC's talking points in support of an initiative that will restore over \$11 billion per year to California schools, community colleges, health clinics, and other vital services. This initiative dares to touch the third rail of California politics, Proposition 13. It would raise property taxes on businesses, not owners of homes or apartments, to compensate for the fact that taxes on residential property have been rising far faster than those paid by commercial entities over the years since Proposition 13 passed.

Alameda & the 2020 Census (Nov. 2019) LWVA is participating in the campaign to ensure that the people of Alameda county are fairly represented after 2020 in the U.S. Congress. Invisible people include multiple families sharing a home and unsheltered residents living in our parks, on vacant properties and on our streets.

Electrifying Alameda: What's in the Works? (April 2020) Postponed until the Spring of 2021 due to shelter-in-place. City of Alameda representatives will discuss plans for electrifying vehicular transportation and newly constructed buildings within the city. Alameda Municipal Power will discuss electrifying existing buildings.

The Program Committee is eager to hear your ideas for forums for the 2020-2021 season and welcomes volunteers to help plan, organize and staff forums. Sign up to volunteer on the League's website, at www.lwvalameda.org/volunteer.html.

William (Bill) Smith, Chair

Voter Service Committee

2020 was a different kind of voter year. The plans were to build up to the November 2020 election in order to get high turnout. Because the 2019 – 2020 activities were mostly focused on registration, we didn't focus on "getting out the vote" which is more appropriate for early fall (September – October 2020).

We did, however, get some traction from our online voter registration dedicated URL. We are cognizant that most eligible Alamedans are already registered to vote, so new/revised registrations were expected to be minimal. From September 2019 to February 2020 we completed four on-line registrations. This does not include persons who registered by mail to the Registrar of Voters (ROV) using paper affidavits that LWV distributes to strategic locations such as post offices and libraries around Alameda.

We also planned on several voter registration events in underserved communities (e.g., Alameda Point Collaborative voter registration event in March), but these were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic Shelter-in-Place. Therefore, when appropriate and safe, we will begin again to:

- Register voters in person with an eye towards underserved communities. We will use data analysis to target specific under-registered precincts.



- Encourage voters to utilize our dedicated voter registration online form
- Solicit participation from LWVA members to volunteer for voter registration. In addition to a robust voter registration event calendar, we are planning for refresher training from the Alameda County ROV to all volunteers and board members on the newly revised voter registration form/format, questions and refreshed rules (e.g., we now can accept **all** voter registrations for any county in the state as the ROV will verify each affidavit and send them to their appropriate county ROV).
- Develop an action plan to remind voters that registration is only the beginning of the process that, ultimately, concludes at voting in November.
- Order and distribute voter information forms in multiple languages to hand out (or go online) to potential voters.
- Host voter registration tables at all programs until the November election

We will also be listening to our membership and citizens for their voting and voter information needs throughout the rest of the 2020 year, assuming the primary stance of safety.

Ken Werner, Voter Service Co-chair

Youth Outreach Committee

Democracy Matters: High School Speech Tournament and Civics Scholarship Program

In partnership with the College of Alameda (CoA), DEMOCRACY MATTERS: LWVA/CoA High School Civics Speech Tournament and Scholarship Program was created five years ago.

Cancellation and beyond: Unfortunately, this year the 2020 Speech Tournament was cancelled because the College of Alameda was closed for the CoronaVirus-19 Shelter in Place restrictions. The terms of the CSU-compliant course require synchronous face-to-face presentations for each of the preliminary and final speeches, in addition to the online coursework.

The LWVA Board generously voted to give each of this year's three contestants a check for \$250 as a thank you for signing up, automatic membership in the League with no membership dues, and an automatic sign-up for next year's competition, if they so desired.

Democracy Matters: Take the Civics Challenge!

The Mission: This high school TV quiz show outreach project was designed as a tool to educate youth in accordance with the LWV Alameda's mission to encourage youth to vote confidently in the upcoming election, and as civics-minded citizens, to have a working knowledge of American government and history.

After testing a classroom model of the proposed quiz show in high school classrooms and an after-school environment, the team decided that a better idea was to start garnering acceptance and a loyal following by making it a single player game for the student on the Internet instead of a classroom group exercise. Playing this online game gives the player practice using parts of the civics news literacy puzzle, namely, to check the news source for reliability, check relevant internal facts in the article, and learn about the US government structure one question at a time.

Same Idea, Same Content, Revised Game Design: The new game design for *Democracy Matters: Take the Civics Challenge* is a proven, previously vetted and tested, design. We are working on a pilot program that is modeled after a news literacy computer game called *Factitious*, a game developed as a small part of a larger grant awarded to American University by the Knight Foundation. This game has been extremely successful, having been played by middle and high school students, most frequently in classes, almost 1.3 million times



since mid-2017. We believe we can use similar software to achieve the same successful result in a game focused on American civics, news literacy, voting and electoral processes.

Are you interested in saving the world and working with Youth Outreach this coming year?
Please let us know! Laura Kinley, Linda Bytof and Sheila Durkin

Laura Kinley, Chair

LEAGUE PROGRAM: POSITIONS AND ACTION

A League position is the stand of the League on a public issue. It serves as the basis for advocacy or action. Action includes lobbying, legislative testimony, public statements, media campaigns, and joining coalitions. A League position is established after members have studied an issue and achieved consensus on policies and practices that best serve the public interest. Local League positions are used in conjunction with positions adopted by the national and state levels of League and may not be in conflict with them, if they are on the same subject.

Recommended LWVA Program 2020-2021

Local:

- Retain all existing Local positions*
- No new study or update study for 2020-2021
- Adopt as Issues for Emphasis for 2020-2021
 - Schools and Communities First Campaign
 - Campaign Finance Reporting and Reform
 - High School Civics Education and Voter Registration
 - Transparency and Good Government

State: Making Democracy Work in California, Environment/Natural Resources, Health Care, and Tax Reform

National: Campaign for Making Democracy Work with four priority areas: Voting Rights, Improving Elections, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics, and Redistricting.

* The Board recommends the re-adoption of the Local Positions on the City Charter, Disaster Preparedness, Elections, Land Use, Housing and Transportation, and the Library as approved at the June 23, 2018 Annual Meeting. These can be found at www.LWVAAlameda.org/advocacy.html.

Recommended Bylaw* Change

Motion to amend the League of Women Voters of Alameda Bylaws, Article IX Meetings and Voting Rights, Section 2. We propose to insert the words "and physical or virtual location" after the phrase "exact date" in the first sentence. That sentence will now say, "An Annual Meeting of Local League Members shall be held between May 1 and July 1, the exact date and physical or virtual location to be determined by the Board."

*LWVA Bylaws can be found at www.LWVAAlameda.org.

1. On home page, click on membership (in heading)
2. On membership page, click on Member Information (circle on right)
3. Scroll down to LWV Policies and Mission: Bylaws.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The LWVA Nominating Committee submits the following slate of candidates for elected positions on the Board of Directors for the 2020-2021 fiscal year. In accordance with LWVA Bylaws, we submit the names of six officers and eight additional members who have agreed to become or continue as directors. We note that our Bylaws allow for up to 20 directors. A number of additional committee positions do not require Board membership.

Many thanks to all of you who are sharing your skills with the League in Making Democracy Work!

Proposed Slate for LWVA 2020-2021 Board of Directors

Officers nominated to be elected at the Annual Meeting

President	Susan Hauser
VP Administration	Anne McKereghan
VP Programs	William Smith
VP Membership	Doris Gee
Secretary	Ashley Lorden
Treasurer	Anna Crane

Additional directors nominated to be elected at the Annual Meeting

Action chair	Karen Butter
Bay Area League liaison	Sally Faulhaber
Bay Area League liaison	Kate Quick
Communication chair	Keasha Martindill
Fundraising chair	Sheila Durkin
Voter service co-chair	Barbara Price
Voter service co-chair	Ken Werner
Youth Outreach	Laura Kinley

Nominating Committee

Non-Board members (three to be elected at the Annual Meeting)

OPEN: volunteers welcome!
OPEN
OPEN

Board members of the committee (two) will be selected by the incoming Board of Directors

Respectfully submitted by the 2019-2020 Nominating Committee,

Cynthia Silva, Chair
Dorie Guess Behrstock
Ruth Dixon-Mueller
Anne McKereghan
Diane Cunningham Rizzo



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA STATEMENTS AND POLICIES

League of Women Voters of the United States Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. *LWVUS website*

LWVA Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy, through education and advocacy.

LWV does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate. It does, however, take action on selected government issues in the public interest.

LWVA Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Policy

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA), in both its values and practices, is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the LWVA on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military status, national origin or disability. The LWVA affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of the City of Alameda in its members, board, and programs. The LWVA recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. Diversity, equity, and inclusion are central to the organization's mission in engaging all individuals, households, communities, and policy makers in creating a more perfect democracy.

-Revised and approved September 20, 2018 by the LWVA Board of Directors.

LWVA Nonpartisan Policy

Definition: The League of Women Voters as an organization neither supports nor opposes political candidates.

Policy Statement: Responsibility for the maintenance of the League's reputation as a nonpartisan group rests with the League Board. The League Board must be consulted if questions arise. In making decisions, the Board will rely to a large extent upon the whole situation.

- League Board members may serve on appointed Boards, Commissions, or Committees.
- League Board members who are actively running by publicly announcing they are forming a committee, or hold an elected or party office may not retain their position on the Board.
- The President, Action Chair, and Voter Service Chair may not take a public or active role in elections or recalls of candidates.

Revised and approved September 21, 2017 by the LWVA Board of Directors.