

## The League of Women Voters of Alameda

P.O. Box 1645  
Alameda, CA 94501  
[www.LWVAlameda.org](http://www.LWVAlameda.org)

The VOTER is published by the LWVA Communications Committee. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on LWVAlameda.org.

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

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**Annual Mixer & Fundraiser**

**MEET (AND SPEED DATE!)**

**YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS\***

**Thursday March 21, 2019 - 5:30-7:30 PM**

**Elks Lodge Ballroom**

**2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda**

**Appetizers & cash bar \* Silent auction \* Raffle**

**Suggested donation \$20 at the door**



\* Public officials shown are not yet confirmed

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit [LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html](http://LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html) for more information

- FRI. MAR. 1**  
5:30pm-7:00pm  
**FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL.** Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant, 1148 Ballena Blvd, Alameda RSVP: by 5pm on Thursday (the day prior) to Anne McKereghan via email at [anne@youreastbayagent.com](mailto:anne@youreastbayagent.com), or call (510) 407-0175.
- MON. MAR. 4**  
11:00am-1:00pm  
**VOTER REGISTRATION.** Alameda Free Library (Bay Farm Island Branch), 3221 Mecartney Road, Alameda.
- FRI. MAR. 8**  
**INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY.** Check out LWV Alameda Website for events on 8 and 9 March. <https://www.lwvalameda.org/calendar.html>.
- THU. MAR. 21**  
5:30pm-7:30pm  
**MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS (MYPO) 2019.** Elks Lodge (3rd Floor), 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda, \$20.00. Buy tickets online at [bit.ly/2BKSRx8](http://bit.ly/2BKSRx8).
- SUN. MAR. 24**  
12:30pm-2:30pm  
**APPRECIATING DIVERSITY FILM SERIES.** "The Pushouts" The New Parkway Theater, 474 24th Street, Oakland. Award winning story of Victor Rios, gang member now U.C. Prof, who helps students at risk of being 'pushed out' of school.
- MON. MAR. 25**  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
**MONTHLY BOOK CLUB.** Exit Right: The People who Left the Left and Reshaped the American Century by D. Oppenheimer. Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- THU. MAR. 28**  
7:00pm-9:00pm  
**LWVA BOARD MEETING. NEW DATE.** Alameda Hospital, Conference Room A (2nd floor), 2070 Clinton Ave, Alameda, CA 94501. All LWVA members are welcome.
- FRI. APR. 5**  
5:30pm-7:00pm  
**FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. TBD,** RSVP: by 5pm on Thursday (the day prior) to Anne McKereghan via email at [anne@youreastbayagent.com](mailto:anne@youreastbayagent.com), or call (510) 407-0175.
- TUE. APR. 9**  
7:00am-8:00pm  
**ELECTION DAY: SPECIAL ALAMEDA CITY ELECTION. Your Polling Place.** Get ready to vote in three easy steps. Register online at [bit.ly/2Ih9OVH](http://bit.ly/2Ih9OVH). Review LWVA-developed Pros & Cons online at [bit.ly/2PBFSmP](http://bit.ly/2PBFSmP). Then go vote!
- FRI. APR. 12**  
5:00pm-7:00pm  
**DEMOCRACY MATTERS: THE 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CIVICS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM & SPEECH TOURNAMENT.** College of Alameda, Building F, 555 Ralph Appezato Memorial Pkwy, Alameda.
- THU. APR. 18**  
6:00pm-8:00pm  
**LWVA BOARD MEETING. NEW PLACE/TIME.** Alameda City Hall, Room 360, 2263 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. APR. 22**  
3:00pm-4:30pm  
**MONTHLY BOOK CLUB.** American Prison by Shane Bauer. Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- SAT. APR. 27**  
9:30am-1:30pm  
**CALL TO BIENNIAL COUNCIL. TBD.** This LWV of the Bay Area meeting is open to all members. Cost: \$10. More info at <https://www.lwvalameda.org/calendar.html>.

**Action Committee** - F. Zensius & K. Butter  
**Special Alameda City Election on 9 April 2019**

Read the Voter Service Committee report below for general information, and a link to the LWVA's Pros and Cons for the ballot measures. The LWVA recommends a 'Yes' vote on Measure A and a 'No' vote on Measure B. You may review these recommendations at [lwvalameda.org/vote-with-the-league.html](http://lwvalameda.org/vote-with-the-league.html).



**Campaign Finance (Dark Money)**

Ever since the U.S. Supreme Court decided in the 2010 Citizens United case that states could not restrict the amount of money given to political campaigns by corporations, unions and other organizations, we've heard a lot about "dark money" – funds whose source can't be traced that are contributed to candidates or ballot measures.



"Citizens United Carpet Bombing Democracy - Cartoon" by DonkeyHotey ([bit.ly/2H4RqNO](http://bit.ly/2H4RqNO)) is licensed under CC by 2.0 ([bit.ly/1mhaR6e](http://bit.ly/1mhaR6e)).

The decision gave rise to the creation of a large number of groups that could raise funds for candidates and causes without having to disclose the names of individual contributors. In theory, candidates could not work directly with those groups, but in practice it occurs all too frequently.

Most of the questionable campaign finance activity occurs at the state and federal level, but localities like Alameda are not immune to it.

While we don't seem to have a problem – yet – with deep-pocketed, opaque organizations trying to influence Alameda elections, we do have money from business interests, unions and political funds flowing into Alameda in an effort to influence the outcome of our local elections.

This is not, technically, "dark money" because California requires candidates to regularly report the source of all campaign funds on the California Form 460 periodically during a campaign. We are fortunate in Alameda to have a city government that makes these reports readily accessible on its website. That makes it easy to see who the financial backers of candidates and ballot measures are.

But all money is "dark money" if nobody shines a light on it. That's why we are working hard to make it easy for the average voter to quickly see who is giving money to whom.

We know the average voter is unlikely to wade through all the 460 reports, so we decided to make them more accessible and easier to see the larger patterns. We have created graphs and tables that indicate what cities the contributions are coming from; whether they are coming from individuals, businesses, unions or political groups; and how much money is raised with small vs. large donations. We also list the sources of contributions of \$1,000 or more. Additionally, after the vote has been counted, we show how much money was raised for each vote cast in favor of the candidate or measure.

On our website ([lwvalameda.org](http://lwvalameda.org)) now are charts and tables for the November 6, 2018 general election and the special City of Alameda election on April 9, 2019. We will repeat the process for the November 2020 local election when the first reports are filed.

While shining a light on the sources of campaign money helps educate the electorate, it's not enough to address some of the issues that emerge when you take a closer look at the financing. The next phase of the League's work in this area will be to create a menu of campaign finance reform initiatives that have been successful in other localities. We want to get this done by the end of this year, so the City Council has a chance to consider them prior to the November 2020 election cycle.

Campaign financing is a double-edge sword: on the one hand, it's a way of measuring which candidates have generated sufficient support among the populace to raise money for their campaigns. On the other hand, special interests can leverage their deep pockets to influence the outcome...and even the decisions made by the candidates they have helped elect. The League of Women Voters doesn't want to staunch the flow of money; we just want to know where it's coming from and to find ways of assuring that it doesn't have a negative impact on good government in Alameda.

### **Schools & Communities First**

From Ben Grieff, the Campaign Director of the Schools and Communities First Initiative, on 9 Feb 2019:

The California Teachers Association and SEIU California voted unanimously to endorse the Schools and Communities First initiative. These two labor unions are the largest in California and represent more than one million workers. Having them get behind this initiative nearly two years before it will appear on the ballot is an exciting development. This extraordinary show of support speaks to the historic nature of our campaign and shows that we are gaining momentum!

These endorsements come at a time when teachers from Oakland to Los Angeles are shining a spotlight on how drastically underfunded our public schools are. These teachers are helping to raise awareness about how Prop. 13's corporate loophole has robbed our schools and public services of over \$100 billion in the last 40 years. Because of their efforts, the media has taken notice. Dozens of news outlets from across the state and even the New York Times and UK Guardian have written stories in the last month about how Prop. 13 has decimated public education funding in California. Most importantly, these stories mention our ballot measure as a solution to the funding crises facing school districts across the state.

Want to join the Action Committee? Contact Felice Zensius and Karen Butter at [actionchair@lwvalameda.org](mailto:actionchair@lwvalameda.org).



### **Fundraising Committee** – Doug Neu

As of late February, we are on track to have a successful, enjoyable Meet Your Public Official (MYPO) fundraiser on 21 March. So far, twelve officials are confirmed as speed-date participants, and multiple businesses will donate food: Herbs & Spices, Amy's Moveable Feast, Cardel Catering, Semifreddi's, and High Street Station Catering.

Purchase event tickets for \$20 each at [bit.ly/2BKSRx8](http://bit.ly/2BKSRx8). By paying this entrance fee, you are donating to the LWVA. So please consider supporting our fundraiser by buying tickets for yourself, friends, family, or others—you can designate whom the tickets are for at checkout.

If you would like to help out at MYPO, please sign up at [bit.ly/2SZC18w](http://bit.ly/2SZC18w). Questions about this event? Contact Doug Neu at [mypo@lwvalameda.org](mailto:mypo@lwvalameda.org).

### **Membership Committee** – Doris Gee

The League welcomes the following new members: Alysse Castro, Anna Crane, Neil Rubenstein, Andrew Huntoon, Charlotte Cashin, Susanne La Faver, Wendy Shiraki and Lisa Hall.

As of 29 February 2019, we have 143 members and eight are student members. Do you know of a student who is over the age of 16, attending school full time? They can join for free. The League is waiving all student membership fees and as a result, the number of students joining across the country has increased by 150%.

Have you renewed your membership for 2019? To do so, send your check to the LWV of Alameda, P.O. Box 1645, Alameda CA 94501 or pay online at [lwvalameda.org/renew-lwva.html](http://lwvalameda.org/renew-lwva.html). An individual membership costs \$70, and a family membership is \$97.

The Membership Committee meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 9am, and we welcome interested members to attend. Contact Doris Gee at [vpmembership@lwvalameda.org](mailto:vpmembership@lwvalameda.org).

### **Nominating Committee** – Anne McKereghan

Members, do you want to serve on our Board of Directors? Review the list of all positions, job descriptions, and information about the LWVA Committees at [lwvalameda.org/volunteer.html](http://lwvalameda.org/volunteer.html).

We will hold 2019-2020 Board member elections at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, 22 June 2019. All terms will last one year and begin on 1 July 2019.

Please nominate yourself or others (with their permission) to “make a difference.” For questions or to make a nomination, contact the Committee Chair, Anne McKereghan, at [anne@youreastbayagent.com](mailto:anne@youreastbayagent.com).

### **Programs Committee** – Michele Ellson

The LWVA will tackle two hot topics during events planned for this spring. In April, we will host a forum about the California Voting Rights Act and district elections. Read a related article by the SF Chronicle at [bit.ly/2IHjsRY](http://bit.ly/2IHjsRY). Then in May, we will present a forum on sea level rise. Review a topical blog entry from the Union of Concerned Scientists about the Bay Area at [bit.ly/2GXpV8F](http://bit.ly/2GXpV8F). More details about these exciting events are coming soon, so stay tuned! If you would like to help out at these forums, contact Michele Ellson at [vpprograms@lwvalameda.org](mailto:vpprograms@lwvalameda.org).

### **Voter Service Committee** – K. Werner

#### **Special Alameda City Election on 9 April 2019**

Alameda City will hold a special election to decide two competing measures. Measure A is an initiative that would reaffirm the City Council’s decision to allow a Wellness Center on McKay Avenue. Measure B would block this facility and change the property’s land use designation to Open Space. Learn about these measures by reading Pros and Cons developed by the LWVA at [lwvalameda.org/pros—cons](http://lwvalameda.org/pros—cons).

#### **Dedicated URL**

The LWV of Alameda is the first in the nation to have a dedicated URL to the Secretary of State’s Voter Registration website! As a result, the Secretary of State’s office will send us a monthly count of the number of completed online applications initiated through our unique URL, which we will apply to all of our voter registration material. Although we will encourage registrants to use the URL, we will also have paper affidavits available as needed. If you are not yet registered to vote, please do so online at [bit.ly/2Ih9OVH](http://bit.ly/2Ih9OVH).

To volunteer with the Voter Service Committee, contact Ken Werner at [voterservice@lwvalameda.org](mailto:voterservice@lwvalameda.org).

### **Youth Outreach Committee** – Alice Fried

Mark your calendars! The High School Civics Scholarship Program Speech Tournament is set for Saturday, 13 April 2019, from 1-4pm at the College of Alameda, Building F.

This year, seven students are participating, and the topic is “What Would Motivate Young People to Vote.” Want to volunteer to help with this event? Please contact Alice Fried at [alicefried89@gmail.com](mailto:alicefried89@gmail.com).





## Juelle-Ann Boyer

The City of Alameda has proclaimed 5 March 2019 as “Juelle-Ann Boyer Day” for her many contributions to our community. The proclamation is shown below.

Juelle-Ann is moving to Lodi, California. Many of her friends from the League of Women Voters and Girls, Inc. gathered on 27 February to say goodbye and wish her well. In lieu of gifts, she asked that donations be made to the LWVA (online at [bit.ly/2GR4JSq](http://bit.ly/2GR4JSq)) and Girls Inc. of the Island City (online at [bit.ly/1ycvYfk](http://bit.ly/1ycvYfk)).

Thank you, Juelle-Ann, for all you have done for Alameda and the League. We hope you will have a terrific new chapter in Lodi, and keep in touch.

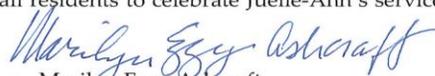
### Proclamation

- Whereas,** Juelle-Ann Boyer began her 21 year career at the City of Alameda in February 1987 as Assistant General Manager for the Bureau of Electricity, was Acting General Manager, and later the Competitive Strategies and Administration Manager; and
- Whereas,** in July 2004, Juelle-Ann was promoted to the City of Alameda’s Chief Financial Officer, where she served until retirement from the City in August 2008; and
- Whereas,** under her leadership, the City of Alameda’s budget and financial reports won numerous awards from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers and the Government Finance Officers Association; and
- Whereas,** in retirement, Juelle-Ann returned to the City on multiple occasions to help the City’s Finance Department, including as Interim Finance Director, and has been a long-time community asset in her volunteerism, including with Alameda Family Services, Mastick Senior Center, Girls Inc. of the Island City, and the League of Women Voters of Alameda, performing all tasks with energy, intelligence, and good humor; and
- Whereas,** serving on the Board of Girls Inc. of the Island City for 15 years, Juelle-Ann has made a tremendous and positive impact by providing her broad expertise and counsel in strategic planning, financial management, and board governance; and
- Whereas,** Juelle-Ann is a strong, smart, and bold woman, who has been one of Girls Inc.’s most generous supporters and prominent role models to members, giving all girls the opportunity to see what phenomenal and accomplished looks like; and
- Whereas,** for many years, Juelle-Ann has worked tirelessly as Director of Voter Services for the League of Women Voters of Alameda, encouraging civic participation; and
- Whereas,** in recognition of her more than 20 years of dedication to countless children, families, and senior citizens in the Alameda community, Juelle-Ann received the City of Alameda’s 2016 Community Service Volunteer of the Year Award; and
- Whereas,** Juelle-Ann is moving to Lodi, and we will miss her unconditional support, smile, and sense of humor, as we wish her all the best.

**Now, therefore, be it resolved,** that I, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Mayor of the City of Alameda, do hereby proclaim March 5, 2019 as

### Juelle-Ann Boyer Day

in the City of Alameda and encourage all residents to celebrate Juelle-Ann’s service to the City by choosing a great local cause to support.

  
Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft  
Mayor