

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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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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VOTER

Promoting Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation

Volume 50, Number 2, March-April 2018

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ALAMEDA

invites you to

MEET (AND SPEED DATE!) YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS

Thursday April 5, 2018 - 5:30-7:30 PM

**Elks Lodge, "Lodge Room"
2255 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda**

***Appetizers & cash bar * Silent auction * Raffle
Suggested donation \$10 at the door***



*** Photos are of public officials likely to appear, not yet confirmed**

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- FRI. MAR. 2** **FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL DINNER.** The Star on Park, 1400 Park Street, Alameda. Join members & guests for good food and conversation! No-host. RSVP to 510-407-0175 or anne@youreastbayagent.com.
- THU. MAR. 8** **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY.** Learn about this global movement for women's rights, equality, and justice at: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/international-womens-day>.
- THU. MAR. 15**
7:00pm-9:00pm **LWVA BOARD MEETING.** Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. MAR. 26**
3:00pm-4:30pm **BOOK CLUB.** The Girl with Seven Names, by Hyeonsoo Lee. Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Ctr. Information: felicez@ymail.com.
- THU. APR. 5**
5:30pm **MEET (AND SPEED DATE) YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS.** Alameda Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda. LWVA's annual community mixer and fundraiser. Donation \$10 at the door. All welcome! Our MYPO webpage is here: <https://www.lwvalameda.org/mypo.html>.
- FRI. APR. 6**
5:30pm-7:00pm **FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL DINNER.** Place TBA. Join members & guests for good food and conversation! No-host. RSVP by 5 April to 510-407-0175 or anne@youreastbayagent.com.
- FRI. APR. 13**
5:00pm-6:30pm **DEMOCRACY MATTERS: THE 3RD ANNUAL CIVICS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND SPEECH TOURNAMENT.** College of Alameda, 555 Ralph Appezzato Memorial Pkwy, Alameda. Topic: Should Immigration Include a Path to Citizenship and Focus on Family? Sponsored by LWVA & CoA.
- THU. APR. 19**
7:00pm-9:00pm **LWVA BOARD MEETING.** Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. APR. 23**
3:00pm-4:30pm **BOOK CLUB.** Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Ctr. Book TBD. Information: felicez@ymail.com.
- THU. APR. 26**
7:00pm-9:00pm **2018 PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM #1: CANDIDATE AND BALLOT MEASURES.** Mastick Social Hall, 1155 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda.
- SAT. APR 28**
10:00am-12:30pm **LWVBA 2018 BIENNEIAL CONVENTION.** San Pablo Library, Community Room, 13751 San Pablo Ave, San Pablo. All League members invited. Cost: \$25 per League (voting delegates) and \$10 per person (non-voting delegates). Info: <http://lwvbayarea.org/2018-bay-area-biennial-convention>.



Alameda Youth Speak Out on Immigration - by Alice Fried.

On April 13, the LWVA and College of Alameda Civics Scholarship Program (CSP) will present its third annual speech tournament. The topic this year is based on United States history and current challenges: What changes should be included in immigration reform? Students can choose their position on what they believe is central to reform.

The LWVA and the College of Alameda (CoA) are proud to provide Alameda’s young people with a platform to add their ideas to the national debate on how to resolve the legal status of immigrants in our community and country. With the exception of Native Americans and enslaved persons stolen from their homelands, we are all the descendants of immigrants. As future leaders, our young people are encouraged to express their thoughts on border security as it relates to national security; how a sufficiently robust immigration policy can benefit the economy; and whether our immigration policies reflect American values as put forth in the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men [and women] are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

The partnership between LWVA and CoA was created in 2015 to prepare Alameda high school students to become informed, critical thinkers and full participants in our democracy. The speech contest is designed to develop public speaking confidence and a community-caring mentality. The winner will receive a \$1,000 scholarship and the runner up a \$500 scholarship from the LWVA. Participants also receive a LWV reference on their college admittance resumes and CoA credits from the Communications Department.

Students participating in this year’s event are from Girls Inc. of the Island City, and the Alameda Science and Technology Institute. The judges are:

- Nancy O’ Malley, Alameda County District Attorney,
- Dr. Evette Castillo Clark, Dean of Students at Saint Mary’s College,
- Melissa Breach, Executive Director of the LWVC,
- Susan Medak, General Manager of the Berkeley Repertory Theater, and
- Timothy Karas, President of College of Alameda.

Please come out at 5:00 PM on Friday, 13 April to CoA (Building F, 555 Ralph Appezatto Memorial Parkway in Alameda) to hear the high school youth of Alameda add their voices to our country’s immigration policy debate.

Membership Update - by Doris Gee

We welcome Rubette Cowan, Jason McGreeney, Ert O’Hara, Kaite Gee, Tara Etayo, and Sandra Lyn Biroc as new members! The LWVA is now 136 members strong. If you have not done so, please send in your membership renewal fees (\$70 single, \$97 family) by 15 March.

Recently, our committee has represented the League at the Oakland Women’s March, the Political and Proud event, and the LWVA’s *Cost of Campaigning in Alameda* panel. We also held a new and potential member gathering attended by over 30 people.

Our next meeting is at the home of Anne Spanier on 28 March at 9:00 AM. All are welcome. Join the team! Email: DorisGee48@gmail.com.



Action Committee Updates – by Karen Butter and Felice Zensius

Schools and Communities First (formally known as Make It Fair)

This campaign is the State league's priority for 2018. Read the bill (The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018) here: <https://goo.gl/UeWrnK> or get a summary here: <https://goo.gl/Y9JRW7>. The Attorney General of California has prepared the following title and summary of the chief purpose and points of the proposed measure here: <https://goo.gl/Gs1DMb>.



We need one million signatures by 24 April to get this on the state wide November ballot. Local Leagues throughout California, other organizations, and paid individuals will gather signatures. Want to help? Email Georgia at President@lwvalameda.org.

State Advocacy Actions

Voters will see four state measures on the June ballot. Noted below if LWVC supports/opposes.

- Prop 68 issues \$4 billion in bonds for parks, environmental protection and water infrastructure. (Supports)
- Prop 69 requires certain tax and fee revenue related to transportation to be used for transportation purposes. (Supports)
- Prop 70 requires a one time two-thirds vote to use revenue from the cap and trade program. (Opposes)
- Prop 71 changes the date when voter approved ballot measures take effect. (Supports)

A Bay Area measure was also placed on the June ballot by the state legislature.

- Regional Measure 3 funds major roadway and public transit improvements with an increase in tolls on the seven Bay Area state-owned toll bridges.

District Elections in Alameda

There has been discussion on whether Alameda should elect city council, school board, and health district members by district rather than at-large, as is done now. Electing by district would allow representation from all parts of the city, and could lower the cost of campaigning. But coming to agreement on issues might become more difficult. The Action Committee will gather data from other communities and plan a public meeting on the matter sometime next year.

Housing Issues Being Discussed/Researched

There is a group in Alameda that is exploring the idea of warming centers for Alamedans who are homeless. A successful San Leandro program, sponsored by local churches, may be a useful model. Their warming centers are open from 6:00 PM – 6:00 AM when the temperature drops, and they provide a meal, place to sleep, and sanitary amenities.



Committee members are researching the status of Universal Design in Alameda. It would apply to new construction and housing modifications to improve the accessibility of homes for all (but especially seniors and those with disabilities). Stay-tuned for further developments.

Political and Proud (P&P) at Encinal High School - by Mari Clark

On 21 February, a large crowd gathered for the P&P symposium in the Encinal High School gym. This Alameda event was planned and promoted by an extraordinary trio of high-school aged women: Lily Conable, Anisya Lusting-Ellison, and Sarah Skaff. (Teachers Christina Craig-Chardon and Cassie Ferguson act as their advisors.)

P&P was modeled after a Connecticut event initiated by another teen, Anna Szeekeres, who pointed out, “Foundational programs have been successful in closing the gender gap in the Science Technology Engineering Mathematics fields. Why can’t we do the same with politics?” The aim of P&P is to encourage women and girls to get involved in politics, advocate for their rights, and run for office. It does so by having female politicians, influencers, activists, and other leaders come together for an evening of speeches, discussion, and inspiration.



The LWVA had a lively membership table where our brochures were distributed. A second LWVA table equipped with laptop computers was a hub of even more activity. Many times, all 10 laptops were in use by young people registering to vote at <http://registertovote.ca.gov>. Although plenty of candy was available, their enthusiasm was not due to a sugar rush. Rather, these young people were political and proud of having registered to vote.

All the dozen banquet tables were filled, and the bleachers extended to seat the overflow crowd as Alameda Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer gave a welcome address. Mayor Spencer advised the young people to do “your best in school” and “take a speech class.” She noted that while women occupy half of Alameda County’s mayor seats (7 of 14), the national percentage is far lower.

Hydra Mendoza, the next speaker, described her Filipino heritage and paid homage to former mayor Gavin Newsom’s persuasiveness about encouraging her to run for San Francisco’s school board. She in turn, advised the audience, “Your generation is about doing not just saying.” With a nod to the LWV, she said, “Voting is a must-do. Register now!”

Nancy Skinner sent a videotaped message mentioning her activist time while at the University of California at Berkeley, noting that she was elected to Berkeley’s City Council while in college.

Civil rights attorney Pamela Price’s rousing keynote speech plainly described the harassment she was subjected to in college, a matter similar to an ultimately disappointing decision of the Supreme Court in *Alexander v. Yale*. But, quoting Coretta Scott King, Price said, “Every generation must fight for freedom.” Wrapping up, she implored the audience to “banish the darkness with the light.” The audience responded with a standing ovation.

The night ended with a panel discussion with representatives from the Council on American Islamic Relations Bay, the Mosaic Project, and Presente.org. They brought forth insights applicable to anyone, regardless of age: “Don’t be afraid to try things,” “Read the news each day—from multiple sources,” and “Be a change-maker.”

The confident strains of Helen Reddy’s ‘70s song, “I am Woman” at the start of the event were complemented by Gloria Gaynor’s “I Will Survive” at the close. Kudos to the P&P teens for orchestrating such a well-attended and inspirational night!

Campaign Finance Quiz – by Keasha Martindill

Based on material/info from *Cost of Campaigning in Alameda* event.



1. The winner of Alameda’s 2014 mayoral race spent:
 - a. \$10,325
 - b. \$68,956
2. The average amount spent by Alameda’s 2010 mayoral candidates:
 - a. \$24,100
 - b. \$37,200
 - c. \$51,000
3. Candidates who were elected to Alameda’s City Council in 2012 reported spending:
 - a. \$30,012 by Ezzy Ashcraft and \$25,600 by Daysog
 - b. \$45,566 by Ezzy Ashcraft and \$5,727 by Daysog
4. What was the average expenditure for those elected to Alameda’s City Council in 2016?
 - a. \$49,346
 - b. \$22,700
5. What is the most effective way to reach voters?
 - a. Three mailers during a campaign
 - b. Social media posts
6. Why is it important when running for office to file a candidate statement?
 - a. It isn’t. Voters can tell you are a quality candidate by how much you spend on ads.
 - b. Voters need to know who you are and why they should vote for you.
7. What is more important to a candidate: money or name recognition?
 - a. Money, because a union can give tons of cash to an unknown, and he or she will always win.
 - b. Name recognition helps, and those who spend the most tend to win, but neither ensures victory.
8. Where does MapLight get its campaign finance information?
 - a. The Federal Election Commission (FEC) for federal election contributions.
 - b. Forms (such as the 460) filed with our Secretary of State (SOS) for elections in California.
 - c. Both a. and b.
9. What are tools that you can use to find campaign finance information?
 - a. **Power Search**. Find amounts received by candidates, raised for measures, or given by contributors. Find independent expenditure spending to support/oppose state candidates or statewide measures. (State-wide data only.) The SOS website is here: <https://goo.gl/1zEjDq>.
 - b. **Voter’s Edge**. Find contributions to candidate committees, and contributions made to committees primarily formed to support/oppose measures for the state ballot. Go to: <https://goo.gl/IBKKOf>.
 - c. **MapLight**. Find top contributions from major donors to congress members, bills paired with contributions, and who spent what to lobby lawmakers. The website is here: <https://goo.gl/XbP5Et>.
 - d. **Netfile**. Find financial info on local candidates, measures, and independent expenditure committees. The Alameda County Registrar of Voters website is here: <https://goo.gl/1Eos2T>.
 - e. **City of Alameda Database**. Find relevant data filed with the City Clerk: <https://goo.gl/SyaHED>.
 - f. All of the above.

{Answers: 1a, 2b, 3b, 4a, 5a, 6b, 7b, 8c, 9f}