

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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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 3, May-June 2018

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California Statewide Direct Primary



**Election
Tuesday
June 5, 2018**

Polls Are Open From 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Election Day!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **Go to VotersEdge.org/ca to prepare!** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- WED. MAY. 2**
12:00pm-1:00pm
UNDERSTANDING THE DANGERS OF A CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION. Online. Webinar about dangers of a constitutional convention & League-supported efforts to stop it. Register: <https://bit.ly/2w4rY6X>.
- THU. MAY. 3**
7:00pm-9:00pm
2018 PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM. Piedmont City Council Chambers, 120 Vista Ave, Piedmont. Can't make LWVA forums on 10 & 24 May? Attend event sponsored by our sister Leagues. Register: <https://bit.ly/2JHBjDG>.
- FRI. MAY. 4**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. 1400 Bar & Grill, 1400 Webster St, Alameda. RSVP: Anne McKereghan 510-407-0175 or anne@youreastbayagent.com.
- SAT. MAY. 5**
9:30am-1:00pm
PTA ADVOCACY DAY. Veterans Memorial Bldg, 2203 Central Ave, Alameda. LWVA will gather signatures for CA Schools & Local Communities First petition, register voters & distribute LWV materials. To volunteer: t.derr@comcast.net.
- THU. MAY. 10**
7:00pm-9:00pm
2018 PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM #2: CANDIDATES. Phoenix Alameda, 2315 Lincoln Ave, Alameda. Alameda County Auditor & Assessor candidates.
- SAT. MAY. 12**
11:30am-1:30pm
NEW MEMBER COFFEE. Peet's Coffee, 2531 Blanding Ave., Alameda. New members/those interested in LWVA: join us for coffee and conversation!
- THU. MAY. 17**
7:00pm-9:00pm
LWVA BOARD MEETING. Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. MAY. 21**
3:00pm-4:30pm
BOOK CLUB. DEMOCRACY IN CHAINS, by Nancy MacLean. **Applebee's Restaurant,** 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda
- THU. MAY. 24**
7:00pm-9:00pm
2018 PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM #3: CANDIDATES. Temple Israel, 3183 Mecartney Rd, Alameda. Alameda County District Attorney candidates.
- FRI. JUN. 1**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. C'era Una Volta, 1332 Park St, Alameda. RSVP: Anne McKereghan 510-407-0175 or anne@youreastbayagent.com.
- TUE. JUN. 5**
ELECTION DAY: CALIFORNIA PRIMARY 2018. Polls open 7am-8pm.
- THU. JUN. 14**
7:00pm-9:00pm
HOW WILL NEW STATE HOUSING LAWS AFFECT ALAMEDA?
Community Room, Independence Plaza, 703 Atlantic Ave, Alameda. Free forum!
- SAT. JUN. 23**
11:30am-2:30pm
LWVA ANNUAL MEETING. Otaez Mexican Restaurant, 1619 Webster St, Alameda. Our guest speaker is Jennifer Williams of the AUSD Board.
- MON. JUN. 25**
3:00pm-4:30pm
BOOK CLUB. Swimming to Antarctica, by Lynne Cox. **Applebee's Restaurant,** 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.



Voter Service – Co-Chairs Juelle-Ann Boyer & Ken Werner
Importance of Voting in the Primaries

An aunt (Juliet Zavron, LWV of the Cincinnati Area) wrote her young nieces about the importance of the primaries-- which we have permission to reprint a portion thereof here:

I'm glad you'll vote. Primaries are important, but many people shrug them off. Here's why that's not good.

Those voting in primaries tend to be more partisan than the overall population. They support candidates with more extreme views. A low turnout of voters who tend toward extreme views means primaries amplify political polarization in this country. The cure? Get more people to vote. That way, winning candidates will satisfy a broader group of people, not just the extremes.

Thank you for caring about this. By voting, you make primaries work better to support democracy.

Ready for the June election? No worries, we got your back!

- Attend our upcoming Election Forums on 10 and 24 May. If you miss an event, watch the video (one to two days later) at lwvalameda.org/lwva-election-forum-videos.html.
- Learn the pros and cons of ballot measures at lwvalameda.org/pros--cons.html.
- Visit Voter's Edge at votersedge.org/ca/ to check your voter registration status and more.
- Don't know how California's Top Two Primary System works? Visit our Civics 101 webpage at lwvalameda.org/civics-101.html.
- Dates to remember are below.
 - 07 May: First day to vote-by-mail.
 - 21 May: Last day to register to vote. Website at registertovote.ca.gov.
 - 29 May: Last day to apply for vote-by-mail ballot by mail.
 - 05 June: Election Day. Polls open 7am-8pm.

Annual Membership Luncheon Meeting

Calling all LWVA members to Annual Meeting on Saturday, 23 June from 11:30AM – 2:30PM, at Otaez Mexican Restaurant (1619 Webster Street) in Alameda. We will approve a budget, approve issues of emphasis for action, and elect a new Board. All members who join before 23 May are eligible to vote. Please note that members may attend without signing up for the lunch. For those who want to sign up for the buffet lunch, the cost is \$30 with tax and tip. (A cash bar is downstairs.)

Our guest speaker will be Alameda Unified School District Board member Jennifer Williams, who will talk about the state of our schools, along with pertinent legislation and ballot measures.

Members, your meeting kits will be mailed this month. (If you have recently moved, please let Doris Gee know your new address.) Read your kit beforehand to learn what the LWVA committees have been doing this year, what local and county positions the League supports, and who is nominated for Board positions for 2018-2019. Within your kit, you will also find reservation and payment information for the luncheon. Then remember to bring your kit to the meeting!



Guest speaker:
Jennifer Williams

Membership Update – by Membership VP Doris Gee

We welcome two new members to the League: Tara Flanagan and Dianne Yamashiro-Omi. Our membership now totals 153.

May and June will be busy! All members are invited to our New Member Coffee on 12 May (see page 2 for details). We also plan to staff a table at the upcoming Election Forums, but we need your help. Email me at dorisgee48@gmail.com to volunteer.

The Membership committee meets regularly the last Wednesday of each month. Want to join us? Our next meeting is on 30 May at 9am.

Action Committee – Co-Chairs Felice Zensius & Karen Butter

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act

Dear friends and signature gatherers, a big hearty thanks to those of you who got out there and did the work! Your efforts are extremely worthwhile and the petitions are in the hands of the folks running this operation statewide.

A few weeks ago, we found out the signature-gathering deadline was extended because our new goal is to get this measure on the November 2020 (instead of the 2018) ballot.

Although this delay is disappointing, it was a strategic decision, because it provides our best path to victory. Reasons why include the fact that more people vote during presidential elections. We will also have more time to inform and engage voters. Moreover, we must build our financial resources since our opposition is ready to spend \$100 million+ to defeat us.

Our schools and communities are suffering while California's wealthiest companies benefit. But in November of 2020, we will enable voters to right that wrong.



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.	

If you have not signed the petition, please contact Felice or Georgia to do so.

Petition gatherers, please return all signed petitions by 22 June 2018, and email Felice and Georgia when ready at felicez@ymail.com and t.derr@comcast.net.

Vote with the League!

Visit our webpage at lwvalameda.org/vote-with-the-league.html to ensure you vote with the League!

For your convenience, here are League recommendations for all state measures on the California Primary ballot.

The Bay Area League has recently voted to support Regional Measure 3, and you may read their letter of support at the above link.

Local Leagues will soon decide on whether to support Alameda County's Measure A. We will post it to our Vote with the League webpage by 15 May.

Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO) 2018

Thank you to everyone who volunteered for, donated to, attended, and speed-dated at MYPO. More than 150 people attended this year's event at the Elks Lodge on Thursday, 5 April from 5:30-7:30PM.

We especially thank the 15 public officials who conversed one-on-one with attendees: Gail Payne, Amber Childress, Malia Vella, James E.T. Jackson, Paul Rolleri, Trish Herrera Spencer, Elsa Ortiz, Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Christian Peeples, Debbie Potter, Anne McKereghan, Jeff Cambra, Edmond A. Rodriguez, Gary Lym, and Tracy Jensen.

The net amount raised is estimated at \$4,500. We hope you had a wonderful evening! If you have any suggestions for MYPO 2019, please contact Doug Neu at MYPO@LWVAalameda.org.



Shelley Reed, Tara Flanagan & Doug Neu



Katie Gee & Rachel Wellman



Elks Ballroom

Doris Gee, Louise Nakada & Diane Cunningham Rizzo



Marilyn Ng & Karen Guthrie



Ruth Dixon-Mueller



Anne McKereghan & Amber Childress



Malia Vella & Edmond Rodriguez

LWVA/CoA 3rd Annual High School Speech Tournament

Congratulations to the six high school students who were selected to compete at our third student speech tournament co-sponsored by the College of Alameda (CoA) on Friday, 13 April. This event is the annual culmination of the Democracy Matters: LWVA/CoA High School Civics Scholarship Program.



Pictured from left to right are the participants: Zohra Rahimi of ASTI, Olivia Harrison of ASTI, Eman Khatri of Alameda High School, Serena Woon of ASTI, Amy Chu of Encinal High School, and Yongqi Kuang of ASTI.

A crowd of 70+ heard these bright young women present their views on immigration reform. Yongqi Kuang won the \$1,000 first place scholarship, and Zohra Rahimi won the \$500 scholarship as runner-up.

Thank you to LWVA's Youth Outreach Chair, Alice Fried, for initiating, obtaining funding for, and overseeing the Democracy

Matters program since 2015. The students who participate emerge as critical thinkers, ready to tackle their responsibilities as voters and American citizens.

CoA Professors Jennifer Fowler and Shirley Brownfox (shown right with the scholarship winners) coached the participants for many weeks leading up to the event. It is evident the students were highly prepared; thank you for your outstanding work!

We also heartily thank our judges (pictured from left to right below): Timothy Karas, CoA President; Nancy O'Malley, Alameda County District Attorney; Dr. Evette Castillo Clark, Dean of Students at Saint Mary's College; Melissa Breach, LWVC Executive Director; and Samanta Cubias of the Berkeley Repertory Theatre (with Alice Fried).

