

**The League of
Women Voters of
Alameda**

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LWVA Communications Committee.
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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We work to raise understanding of major policy issues and influence public policy through education. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and reached consensus on. In an era of proliferating powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



VOTER

**Promoting Political Responsibility through Informed
and Active Participation**

Volume 48, Number 5, May 2016

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Important May events: two election forums!

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ALAMEDA



PRIMARY ELECTION FORUM Tuesday May 10 7-9 PM

**Presidential Primary June 7: What's at Stake?
Ballot measures, political offices, convention delegates!**



CANDIDATE FORUM / Q&A Tuesday May 17 7-9 PM

County Board of Education, State Senate & Assembly

**Mastick Social Hall, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue
INFO: www.LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html**

President's Message:
Fulfilling the Promise
Alice Fried, Co-President, LWVA

Co-president Anne Spanier and I want to thank the committee chairs and volunteers for all that was done in the last two months to demonstrate the promise of the League of Women Voters to encourage citizen participation in the government process through education and advocacy.

On March 16, the LWVA held a well-attended special event on Human Trafficking sponsored by the LWVA with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) at the College of Alameda. The keynote speaker was Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley.

March 31, the LWVA hosted its annual Meet Your Public Officials (MYPO) event (see special report in this issue). The Harbor Bay Community Center was packed with guests eager to speed-date elected representatives for a one-on-one chat as well as to socialize with public officials serving Alameda.

The April 7 Community Forum: Better BART, Better Bus, Better Alameda: What's Coming? Featured an informative conversation with Robert Raburn, BART Director, H. Christian Peoples, President of AC Transit Board of Directors, and members of the community. The two transportation officials presented plans and answered questions regarding upgrading the services, fleets and infrastructure of BART and AC Transit serving our Alameda community.

On April 15, eight Alameda high school students from Girls Inc. of the Island City after-school teen program faced off in the very first LWVA/CoA Democracy Matters: High School Scholarship Program Civics Debate. This was the first debate put on by the partnership between the LWVA and the College of Alameda to ensure that Alameda high school students enter society as critically thinking, informed participants in governance. The winning team received a \$1000 scholarship. The best debater was granted a \$500 scholarship. All participants earned one college credit in Communications from the College of Alameda.



Anne & Alice with LWV California
President Helen Hutchison

Girls Inc. debate teams with
Assemblymember Rob Bonta

Winners with CoA President
Joi Lin Blake & Alice Fried

May is shaping up to be just as enlightening with two political forums to discuss the ballot propositions, the primary system, and the presidential race as well local and state elections and to hear from candidates for State Assembly, State Senate, and Alameda County School Board. Check your monthly VOTER, bimonthly MailChimp, Facebook, etc. for dates and places for these events and help to build our community by participating in and spreading the word about all LWVA events.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- Friday 6 May**
5:00 PM drinks
5:30 PM dinner
FIRST FRIDAY NO-HOST SOCIAL DINNER
Socialize with members and guests and enjoy a choice of entrees; \$35 inclusive.
Angela's Kitchen, 1640 Park Street. Reserve JeffCambra@earthlink.net, 865-7369
- Saturday 7 May**
9:30 AM-12:00 Noon
LWV BAY AREA BIENNIAL CONVENTION
Board elections 2016-18; By-Law amendments; adoption of program for 2016-18.
San Mateo Community College District Board Room, 3401 SCM Drive, San Mateo.
Contact Sally Faulhaber at ssyhf@comcast.net; visit www.lwvbayarea.org for info.
- Tuesday 10 May**
7:00-9:00 PM
ELECTIONS 2016: COMMUNITY FORUM 1
Presidential Primary June 7: What's at Stake? Discussion and Q&A on ballot measures, primary candidates and procedures, convention delegates, and more!
How do primaries work? **Mastick Social Hall**, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue.
- Tuesday 17 May**
7:00-9:00 PM
ELECTIONS 2016: COMMUNITY FORUM 2
Primary Candidates Q&A. LWVA presents the candidates for Alameda's **State Senate** district, **State Assembly** district, and **County School Board** with Q&A.
Join the debates! **Mastick Social Hall**, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue.
- Thursday 19 May**
7:00-9:00 PM
LWVA BOARD MEETING
All LWVA members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.
Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Ave. @ Willow, Conference Room C.
- Monday 23 May**
3:00-4:30 PM
BOOK CLUB
Think Like a Freak by Seven Levitt and Stephen Dubner, authors of the best-selling *Freakonomics*. "With their trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, they take us inside their thought process and teach us all to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally."
Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center felicez@ymail.com, 865-4329
- Friday 3 June**
9:30-12:30 Panel
1:00-2:30 PM Tour
COMMUNITY FORUM & BUS TOUR
Alameda in the Making: The Ongoing Story of Development in Alameda
Learn about what developments are coming or are in the works from City staff, developers and housing experts; special presentation on Jean Sweeney Park. Q&A.
Co-sponsors Alameda Home Team, Alameda Association of Realtors, LWVA.
RSVP DevelopmentsAlameda@eventbrite.com
Alameda Elks Lodge, 2255 Santa Clara Avenue, **Rathskellar Room (downstairs)**
- Tuesday 7 June**
PRIMARY ELECTIONS! Get out the vote!
- Saturday 25 June**
11:30 AM-2:00 PM
LWVA ANNUAL MEETING AND LUNCHEON
Speisekammer Restaurant, 2424 Lincoln Avenue just east of Park Street
Mark your calendars; watch for your mailed LWVA Annual Meeting Kit in May.
- Saturday 6 August**
TBA
LWVA BOARD RETREAT
Plan priorities, committee work and events for 2016-2017. Bring your ideas!

MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS (MYPO 2016) A BIG SUCCESS!

Thanks to the participation and support of LWVA's members, more than 100 people attended our annual community mixer and fundraiser at Harbor Bay Community Center on March 31st. Everyone enjoyed tasty food, plentiful drink, and the opportunity to bid on an array of beautifully presented raffle and auction items. Best of all, 15 of our local elected and appointed officials signed up to "speed date" members of the community in five 4-minute one-on-one conversations each, with another 12 attending the event to mix with the crowd.



MC Jeff Cambra, Alice Fried, MYPO Chair Deborah Wright 2014-2015 co-presidents Kate Quick & Felice Zensius CA State Senator Loni Hancock

Returns from ticket sales reached \$3,000, with another \$3,000 from the raffle and silent auction. Although the final expenses have yet to be tallied, MYPO has proven once again to provide a significant source of funds to help support the League's voter education and advocacy activities throughout the year.

Special appreciation is due to everyone who purchased tickets for the event; who contributed food and wine; who donated raffle and auction items (including many of our local businesses and restaurants); and who gave so freely of their time and energy as volunteers. *Mil gracias!*

And to our speed-dating public officials, hats off to Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer; City Councilmembers Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft and Jim Oddie; Fire Chief Doug Long; Police Chief Paul Roller; AUSD Superintendent Sean McPhetridge and Trustees Philip Hu, Gray Harris, Gary Lym and Barbara Kahn; City Manager Jill Keimach; Community Development Director Debbie Potter; BART Director Robert Raburn; Alameda Hospital C.A.O. Bonnie Panlasigui, and Peralta Community College District Trustee Bill Withrow.



MYPO Speed daters Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer, City Councilmember Jim Oddie, and dates

Finally, your MYPO 2016 planning committee consisted of the most excellent Deborah Wright, LWVA Fundraising Chair, ably supported by Alice Fried, Marian Breitbart, Doris Gee, Keasha Martindill, Georgia Gates Derr, Marti Burchell, and Ruth Dixon-Mueller. Kudos!

More photos on <http://lwvalameda.org/PhotoGallery.html>

What's on your June 7th primary ballot?

1. Proposition 50: Suspension of Legislators. Vote Yes with the League!

Suspension of Legislators: “Proposition 50 would give the Legislature clear authority to discipline Senators or Assembly Members by suspending them without pay. Lawmakers should be able to hold their own colleagues accountable if they breach the public’s trust. This commonsense measure was placed on the ballot with strong bipartisan support.” See www.LWVC.org for the California League’s position and argument, which concludes as follows: “Proposition 50 is a commonsense step that would give lawmakers the authority to police their own, which is the right next step to holding all lawmakers accountable for serving the public interest. That’s why fair-minded Californians support Proposition 50.” (See June 10th LWVA forum on Calendar page)

Helen Hutchison, President, League of Women Voters of California

James P. Mayer, President/CEO, California Forward

See also <http://www.cafwd.org/reporting/entry/opinion-prop-50-another-step-toward-restoring-public-trust>

2. Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority “Clean and Healthy Bay” Parcel Tax. Vote Yes with the League!

LWV of the Bay Area has endorsed **Measure AA**, the \$12 per parcel tax that will be on the June, 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. This measure needs 2/3 voter approval within the region to pass. See www.lwvbayarea.org. OFFICIAL WEBSITE: <http://www.yesonaaforthethebay.com>

“Our Bay Area positions support conservation and development of the SF Bay and enhancement and preservation of the Bay and its shorelines. LWVUS policies on climate change also support adaptation activities related to climate change, such as sea level rise. This measure will generate funding for restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, benefitting people, wildlife, and the Bay Area economy. More wetlands will improve the bay by filtering out pollution for cleaner water; increasing habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife. The measure will expand Bay trails and shoreline access; and protect low-lying communities and infrastructure from floods.” (See June 10th LWVA election forum on Calendar page)

3. Primary candidates for office:

For president: American Independent Party (7); Democratic Party (7); Green Party (5); Libertarian (12); Peace and Freedom (3); Republican (5). You must be a registered party member to vote in the presidential primaries except that voters reporting no party preference may vote in the Democratic primary.

For U.S. Senator: (to replace Barbara Boxer) 34 candidates, open primary with all parties listed (top two advance to November ballot).

For 9th State Senate District: (to replace Loni Hancock) 4 candidates, open top two primary (see June 17th LWVA candidates’ forum on Calendar page)

For 18th Assembly District: 2 candidates (Rob Bonta, incumbent) (see LWVA candidates’ forum)

For Trustee, Alameda County Board of Education (see LWVA candidates’ forum)

Also for Superior Court Judge and for members of the Democratic and Republican County Central Committees, 18th Congressional District.

Check your registration status at www.acgov.org/rov; click on Voter Registration, online voter registration status. May 23rd last day to register for June 7. Mailed ballots should be arriving soon!

Other useful sites: www.ballotpedia.org; www.easyvoterguide.org; www.votersedge.org/ca (for your ballot information)

LWVA Membership Report

LWVA now has 129 active members. If you haven't renewed your membership for 2016, be sure to do so now to be eligible to vote at our Annual Meeting on June 25th (see Calendar). Printed copies of the 2016 Membership Directory will be available at the meeting. We hope everyone will attend!

Thanks to Web manager Lisa Yap, we have a greatly improved "Join LWVA" page on the LWVAlameda.org website. You can join or renew by filling out the form online, and pay by check or credit card (PayPal). Those who wish to make an additional donation or to pay for a mailed must still pay by check.

Please welcome nine new members who have joined us in March and April, including the winners of the LWVA memberships offered at the MYPO raffle and silent auction on March 31st.

Nelsy Batista	(srtanesba@gmail.com)
Dr. Nina Campagna	(drninacampagna@gmail.com) and Dr. Tim Heath (drtim.heath@gmail.com)
Sarah Oddie	(sarah.oddie@gmail.com)
Gaylon Parsons	(gaylonparsons@gmail.com)
Gayle Saldinger	(gsaldinger@gmail.com) and Joel Saldinger (Jsaldin@aol.com)
Paula Silver-Manno	(silver-mannoP@hotmail.com)
Jennifer Williams	(bassnjenn@aol.com)

Join the Alameda League or renew your membership today!



Name _____

Other Names _____
(if a family membership)

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

\$70 Single Membership \$97 Family Membership free Student Membership (full-time, voting age, enroll by mail only) Dues year is Jan 1 – Dec 31. Dues assistance available for those on limited income: e-mail membership@LWVAlameda.org or call 865-2439. Printed and mailed copy of VOTER ADD \$10 (e-mailed newsletter on the first of the month with LWVA's e-blast is free).

Please make check payable to LWV Alameda and mail to: LWVA, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.
Membership dues are tax deductible. To pay online, visit LWVAlameda.org/join.html.

Consider making an additional tax-deductible contribution to LWVA today!