

## **LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA**

BOARD MEETING MINUTES, May 19, 2022 Virtual Meeting Online via Zoom

**Board members present:** Anne McKereghan, presiding; Keasha Martindill, Anna Crane, Kate Quick, Sheila Durkin, Ken Werner, Doris Gee, Carol Kasperek, Susan Hauser, Irene Dieter, Linda Bytof, Jeff Cambra, and Karen Butter. **Other members present:** William Smith and our League Coach, Lianne Campodonico.

**Call to order:** Anne McKereghan called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Accepted agenda as modified (moved up Voter Service time of discussion), and accepted the consent agenda.

**League Coach Note:** reminder that Leagues need to submit their updated bylaws (if any) to her and Jackie Jacobberger.

**Voter Service Potential Issues:** Carol Kasperek asked the Board if there are any Voter Service issues that should be researched. Specifically, the Alameda County Council (ACC) would like each local League in our county to take an issue (like crime, transportation, mental health, etc.) and research the Pros & Cons for the General Elections this fall. We could come up with questions on these issues for candidate forums. There's a meeting on 18 July by ACC to plan for Fall 2022 candidate forums. We need to get some clarification on this planning from the ACC Chair. Board members brought up potential issues: climate change, ranked-choice voting, etc.

**President's Report:** Regarding recent Supreme Court leak about Roe v. Wade: mentioned abortion rights rallies on 14 March; submitted LTEs to local newspapers about women's reproductive rights; raised ideas about routine communications on this matter, looking for partners (like All Rise), and establishing a work-group on women's reproductive rights. Board members brought up Planned Parenthood, and Access Reproductive Justice, and Girls Inc. as potential partner organizations -- maybe work-group would determine this. One concern voiced: we are a small League, and supporting this will siphon off needed energy from our unique LWVA projects like ranked-choice voting (RCV) and VerifyIT. Counter-argument: getting involved demonstrates League is still relevant. Anna Crane moved to begin a LWVA work group on reproductive rights, anticipating the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, and Ken Werner seconded. Board voted and approved, 11-1.

**DEI Moment:** A Possible Path to Equitable Funding/Affordable Housing by Bill Smith. From 2015-2021: a downward trend affordable housing in Alameda/Bay Area. Federal and State governments are putting a lot of money towards market-rate housing. Proposed legislation by Buffy Wicks, ACA 14, would change that.

The discussion described the pros and cons of redirecting state tax breaks for homeowners, investors and wealthy buyers to set aside 5% of the total CA budget each year to fund affordable housing proposed in the Housing Opportunities for Everyone (HOPE) Act (ACA 14).

The LWVC task force may develop a recommendation to the LWVC Legislative Task Force on this bill and welcomes input from local leagues.

**VerifyIt Potential Partnership:** Discussion deferred to indefinite date about whether the Defenders of Democracy Against Disorganization 501(c)4 organization may be a good partner to help us identify current news articles. They are a political group, so we need to decide whether a partnership would be acceptable.

**Contributions to Other Leagues for Voting Rights:** Anna Crane and Sheila Durkin presented arguments for making contribution of \$500 each to the State Leagues of Wisconsin, Georgia, Florida, Pennsylvania, and Texas – total contribution would be \$2,500. Donations would be accompanied by an official LWVA letter. Kate Quick moved that we donate \$500 each to these five Leagues for the purpose of supporting voting rights, and Keasha Martindill seconded. Board approved, 10-0. (An aside: our coach noted that the LWVUS depends in large part on pro bono legal work for their court challenges.)

**Questions about RCV:** Karen Butter and Irene Dieter would like to have a moment at every Board meeting from now on, where one person gets to ask a RCV question. Ken asked what is the 25 words or less answer about RCV. Answer: simple upgrade to the way we vote – other Bay Area cities have been using it for years. You rank your candidates in order of preference. If no one reaches a majority threshold, those votes can be counted in an instant runoff (and you don't have to hold a separate election).

**Good of the Order/New Business/Announcements:**

- Alameda Fourth of July Parade: No new updates about the LWVA parade entry.
- Paul and Susan Hauser put out entire Annual Meeting Kit: kudos and thank you!

Anne adjourned the meeting at 8:46pm. (This time is an estimate, as the note-taker, Keasha Martindill, had to leave the meeting approximately 10 minutes early. All Board Members present were later offered an opportunity to report any meaningful discussions that were missed, and none were provided.)