

**The League of
Women Voters of
Alameda**

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The VOTER is published 8 times per year. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website

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The League of Women Voters; a non-partisan political organization – encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major policy issues, and influence public policy through education. The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and come to a consensus on. In an era of proliferating and powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



VOTER

**Volume 41
Number 6
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2008**

Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation

VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGN 2008

October will be a very busy month for the Alameda League. We will be hosting seven events to inform the public about the issues and candidates for the November 4th election. In addition to the events listed below, the League has been invited to present Pros and Cons to various community groups and will be teaching government students how to present Pros and Cons to their fellow classmates. Let friends, family and neighbors know about the events, and volunteer to help at one or more of the events.

For more information or to volunteer with Pros and Cons contact Joanne McKray at 522-6760, joannemck@alamedanet.net. For information or to volunteer at Candidate Forums contact Juelle Ann Boyer at 523-6548, alwvoterservice@gmail.com.

Wednesday, October 1, 2008	7:00pm	Temple Israel <u>3183Mecartney Rd</u> <u>Alameda, CA 94501</u>	PROS and CONS. The League will Present the Pros and Cons of the November Ballot Propositions
Thursday, October 2, 2008	6:45-9:00pm	Alameda Hospital Conference Room A <u>2070 Clinton Ave.</u> <u>Alameda, CA 94501</u>	Candidate Forum - AUSD Trustees. Candidates Forbes, Gibson, Mooney, Spencer and Tam
Thursday, October 09, 2008	6:45-9:00pm	Cardinal Point <u>2431 Mariner Square</u> <u>Alameda, Ca 94501</u>	Candidate Forum CITY COUNCIL. City Council Candidates Gilmore, Jensen, deHaan and Harrison
Wednesday, October 8, 2008	7:00pm	Alameda Main Library <u>1550 Oak Street</u> <u>Alameda, CA 94501</u>	PROS and CONS. The League will Present the Pros and Cons of the November Ballot Propositions
Wednesday, October 15, 2008	7:00-9:00pm	Temple Israel <u>3183 Mecartney Rd</u> <u>Alameda, CA 94502</u>	Candidate Forum - AUSD Trustees. Candidates Forbes, Gibson, Mooney, Spencer and Tam
Saturday, October 18, 2008	11:00AM	Cardinal Point Residence <u>2431 Mariner Square</u> <u>Alameda, CA94501</u>	PROS and CONS. The League will Present the Pros and Cons of the November Ballot Propositions
Thursday, October 30, 2008	6:45-9:00pm	Mastick Senior Center <u>1155 Santa Clara</u> <u>Ave</u> <u>Alameda, CA 94501</u>	Candidate Forum CITY COUNCIL. City Council Candidates Gilmore, Jensen, deHaan and Harrison

IN MEMORIAM

We note the passing of Bob Hopping, partner of Helen Waldear, with great sadness. Bob was always at the ready to serve as a bartender at our "Meet Your Public Officials" events and we will miss those great conversations. Our condolences to his family and to Helen.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Well, fall has come and we are all in place for our race to the November 4th election. I am never sure if the role of the president is to be the race organizer/starter, or just another of the runners struggling to get over that “well, that’s over!” finish line. I think maybe, both.

For the League it always starts with the race organization, and that means we get through our annual meeting and board retreat with a decision about what kind of race we believe in, what we want to do about it, and how to go about the “doing”, while sustaining ourselves so we have enough of what it takes to run our race well.

This time, our race involves some formidable hurdles. Lots and lots of State and regional measures and propositions, plus a local tax measure, several clean-up the City Charter measures, and a plethora of candidates for City Council, School Board and regional seats. We have had to organize dates, times and places for candidate’s and pros and cons forums, write pros and cons on our City measures, and form up relay teams to staff all these voter education positions and get our voter education materials delivered. Joanne McKray and Anne Spanier have done a great job in pulling all of this together. Their work will be posted on our web site and you can also find information in this issue of the VOTER and on our smartvoter.org web site.

To get all of this done, we will all have to enter the race at least at some point. Some of the jobs are small, and one-time; others are longer and require more of a commitment – kind of like running a relay that has long and short “legs”. The good news is that we know where the finish line is: November 4, 2008. So get in touch with Joanne McKray at joannemck@alamedanet.net or 522-6760 or, or Anne Spanier at annespanier@mindspring.com or 522-3426 to help with voter service. They and your League need you!

Our League has taken “in support of” positions on Proposition P, our City measure which will increase the property transfer tax, and the Propositions Q-X which all have to do with cleaning up our City Charter. See the article in this VOTER on voting with the League on all the measures you will find on your November ballot. Our stands on these measures are not taken without a good deal of process. First, we compare them to our positions, or to positions the League holds at the State or National level which we are authorized to use, and make sure that our position and the measure agree. Then, we discuss the propriety of taking a position among the board members and come to an agreement to do so, or to stay neutral.

So come to the race as a participant, not as a bystander. Do your part, large or small, and the work will be made easy for everyone. Once November 4th, that “We did it!” date is past, we can move on to the rest of our work with a lot of satisfaction that we prepared well and performed to the best of our ability. Thanks to all who have done so much so far, and welcome to all who are joining our endeavor. – *Kate Quirk*, President, League of Women Voters of Alameda

SOME INFORMATION ABOUT OUR NON-PARTISAN POLICY

As often happens during campaign seasons, people get “loose” with our policy regarding non-partisanship. Recently, someone in another state who was characterized as speaking for the League erred in speaking to the press about the Republican Vice Presidential nominee. Here is a reminder about our policy.

The League of Women Voters has a special history of maintaining its non-partisan approach. While we encourage our members to run for office, participate in party politics and help with campaigns, the League remains non-partisan by providing neither support nor opposition to any candidate for office. Some board members have restrictions on what they may do politically. Policies exist at the local, state and national levels. Unfortunately a member in Ohio was interviewed by the press and the outcome was a report on CNN that the League of Women Voters supports the candidacy of Sarah Palin. We do not support nor oppose this candidate or any other candidate for any level office. At this time it is not understood if the League member was misquoted or if she abused her role as an officer of a local League. The LWV Alameda Board wants all its members to know that the League at all levels does not and will not support or oppose any candidate.



League of Women Voters Of Alameda

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 4 **THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS**

alameda.ca.lwvnet.org

 **MEASURE P – Real Property Transfer Tax** Measure amends the Alameda City Municipal code to allow an increase in the Real Property Transfer tax from \$5.40 per \$1,000 of value to \$12.00 per \$1,000 of property value. The real property transfer tax is a one-time fee levied whenever there is a change in ownership on properties in Alameda. The downturn in the economy has had a long term effect on Alameda City. The tax would allow the City to maintain essential services.

 **YES ON MEASURE Q - Obsolete and Unclear Language** Measure Q is a collection of 20 non substantive clean up items such as eliminating salary minimums for City Clerk, City Manager and City Attorney, adding a provision to change all single-gender references and providing flexibility in scheduling Council meetings.

 **YES ON MEASURE R– Contracts** Measure R adds a new article to the City Charter requiring a written contract when the City must pay an amount equal or greater than the amount that would be set by Council ordinance and declares the City is not bound by any contract unless it complies with requirements of the Charter.

 **YES ON MEASURE S – Emergency Bidding** Measure S adds language to the City Charter to facilitate a quick response by the City to an emergency. In the event of a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses clear and imminent danger, the City Manager or designee may exceed the sum provided in general law and forego competitive bid, subject to ratification by Council as soon as practicable.

 **YES ON MEASURE T – City Hours** Measure T amends the City Charter to allow Council to modify the business hours of City offices.

 **YES ON MEASURE U – Auditor** Measure U adds a qualification to the City Charter for Auditor requiring that the auditor be a Certified Public Accountant and removes an obsolete practice of holding a bond.

 **YES ON MEASURE V – Treasurer** Measure V adds a qualification to the City Charter for Treasurer requiring a license as a Charter Financial Analyst or Certified Financial Planner and modernizes duties to recommend, monitor or report rather than simply having custody of city money.

 **YES ON MEASURE W – Public Utilities Board** The current City Charter states that city owned public utilities established for the purpose of transportation are within the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board. Measure W amends the Charter by removing the word ‘transportation’.

 **YES ON MEASURE V – Historical Advisory Board** Measure V amends the City charter to eliminate the reason for removal from the Historical Advisory Board so that there is consistency among all the boards.



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PROS AND CONS

MEASURE P

CITY OF ALAMEDA REAL PROPERTY TRANSACTION TAX MEASURE

THE QUESTION

To maintain essential City services such as keeping existing fire stations open; maintaining neighborhood policing programs; improving traffic flow and pedestrian and bicycle safety; preventing recreation program cutbacks; and restoring previously reduced library hours; shall the City of Alameda increase the City real property transfer tax, charged when a property is sold, from \$5.40 to \$12.00 per \$1,000.00 of value, limited to 20 years and subject to audits?

THE SITUATION

The downturn in the economy has had a long term effect on Alameda City. The City reduced its 2007/2008 budget by \$4 million to avoid a deficit. For 2008/2009 the City adopted a budget with significant reductions to City departments and services. Along with the reductions the City Council increased fees and established new fees to forestall some budget reductions. At the same time the City explored revenue-generation ideas. A survey of Alameda voters regarding these ideas led the City Council to ask for approval for an increase in the Real Property Transfer Tax, as it was the idea with the greatest level of support for passage.

Charter cities, such as Alameda, are allowed to collect a tax on qualifying transfers of real property at the time the property is sold. The amount of tax is based upon the amount paid for the sale or transfer of the property. The current real property transfer tax rate in Alameda is \$5.40 per \$1,000 of the value of consideration. Current transfer tax rates of nearby charter cities range from \$4.50 in Hayward to \$15.00 in both Berkeley and Oakland. The tax is a one-time tax paid upon sale out of escrow funds and is often split by the sellers and buyers of property. This is considered a general tax pledged to general government purposes rather than to specific departments or programs. The Office of the County Recorder collects this tax and returns the proceeds to the City.

The measure passes if approved by a majority of Alameda voters and will go into effect within 10 days.

FISCAL EFFECT

An increase to \$12.00 per \$1,000 of value is expected to raise an estimated \$4.1 million for the General Fund for Fiscal Year 2008/2009. As property values increase the yield from the tax will increase over time. In addition, because the tax is charged on residential, commercial, and industrial properties transfers, the number of properties subject to the tax will increase with new developments in Alameda

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A YES vote means that the Alameda City Municipal code is amended to allow a transfer tax increase from \$5.40 per \$1,000 of value to \$12.00 per \$1,000 of property value.

A NO vote means that the transfer tax remains at \$5.40 per \$1,000 of property value

SUPPORTERS SAY

- City has insufficient revenues to fund essential services – Alameda City needs \$5 million for these services and this tax is projected to raise that amount
- The money raised would stay in Alameda
- Alameda transfer tax was set 15 years ago is second lowest among surrounding cities

- This tax facilitates accountability with an annual audit and will sunset in 20 years
- The transfer tax helps to fund services that improve Alameda home values
- It is a progressive tax
- It is an efficient method for tax collection.
- City poll shows that it is supported by Alameda residents

OPPONENTS SAY

- It is an inequitable form of taxation placing the tax burden on people who buy and sell property
- It will reduce housing affordability
- The decline in the sale of houses may reduce the anticipated income.
- The City is placing the entire burden of the recent budget deficits on the buyers and sellers of Alameda property

For More Information:

SUPPORTERS: Mayor Beverly Johnson, Councilmember Frank Matarrese, William Schaff, President, AUSD Board of Trustees, Gail Wetzork, President Friends of Alameda Parks, Ben Reyes, Ruth Belikove, Burnham Matthews, Robert Bonta, Co-President Democratic Club of Alameda, Kathleen Pryor

OPPONENTS: Richard Bartalini, Dianne Richmond, President Alameda Association of Realtors, Troy Staten, Deidra Ostefsky-Williams, Bruce Edwards

ALAMEDA CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT MEASURES Q – X

Majority Approval Required

THE QUESTIONS

Measure Q - Obsolete and Unclear Language -

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to delete obsolete and unclear language? Said amendments will be accomplished by amending Sections 2-4, 2- 6, 2-9, 3-7(A), 3-7(B), 3-7(C), 3-7(F), 3-7(I), 3-15, 9-1(E), 12-3(D), 17-10, 22- 4, and 28- 6(A), deleting Sections 3-7(E), 3-15.1, 17-11, 23-4, 23-5, Art. XXV, and 28-6(B), and adding Section 2-16 to said Charter, all as more fully set forth in Resolution No. 14246 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

Measure R - Contracts

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to provide that every contract shall be in writing and that the City shall not be bound by any contract unless it complies with the Charter? Such amendment will be accomplished by adding Section 22- 13 of said Charter, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14250 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

Measure S - Emergency Bidding

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to provide that in an emergency the City Manager or designee may forego competitive bidding for a public work or improvement or purchase of materials or supplies to protect life, health, property or essential public services? Such amendment will be accomplished by adding Section 3- 15.2, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14253 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

Measure T - City Office Hours

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to provide that Council may determine when City offices are to be open for business? Such amendment will be accomplished by amending Article XXII Sec. 8 of said Charter, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14252 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

Measure U - Auditor Requirements

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to provide that the Auditor have a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) license or a related educational degree, and no bond? Such amendment will be accomplished by amending Article IV of said Charter, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14247 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

Measure V - Treasurer Requirements

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to require that the Treasurer be licensed as a Chartered Financial Analyst or Certified Financial Planner and annually recommend to Council an investment policy for City monies and monitor and report results of the City investment portfolio? Such amendment will be accomplished by amending Article V of said Charter, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14248 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

Measure W - Public Utilities Board

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to eliminate transportation from the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board? Such amendment will be accomplished by amending Article 12-1(A) of said Charter, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14249 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

Measure X - Historical Advisory Board

Shall the Charter of the City of Alameda be amended to eliminate reasons for removal of Historical Advisory Board members and to authorize the City Council to determine when it is appropriate to do so? Such amendment will be accomplished by amending Article XXVIII Sec. 5 of said Charter, as fully set forth in Resolution No. 14251 of the Council of the City of Alameda.

THE SITUATION

In 2007 the Alameda City Council formed a City Charter Subcommittee to review the City Charter and recommend amendments. In April 2008 the Charter Subcommittee hosted a public workshop to discuss the amendments. The City Council has placed 8 measures on the November ballot. Measure Q is a non substantive clean-up measure that combines 20 changes. Measures R – X are more substantive changes that are described below. Other substantive changes on the form of government Alameda citizens desire, such as compensation of the mayor and Council members, authority of Council over appointments of department heads, role of Council in appointments to boards and commission, would require a more comprehensive discussion.

MEASURE Q – Clean Up

Measure Q is a collection of 20 non substantive clean up items such as eliminating salary minimums for City Clerk, City Manager and City Attorney, adding a provision to change all single-gender references and providing flexibility in scheduling Council meetings.

MEASURE R – Contracts

Measure R adds a new article to the City Charter requiring a written contract when the City must pay an amount equal or greater than the amount that would be set by Council ordinance and declares the City is not bound by any contract unless it complies with requirements of the Charter

MEASURE S – Emergency Bidding

Measure S adds language to the City Charter to facilitate a quick response by the City to an emergency. In the event of a sudden, unexpected occurrence that poses clear and imminent danger, the City Manager or designee may exceed the sum provided in general law and forego competitive bid, subject to ratification by Council as soon as practicable.

MEASURE T – City Hours

Measure T amends the City Charter to allow Council to modify the business hours of City offices.

MEASURE U – Auditor

Measure U adds a qualification to the City Charter for Auditor requiring that the auditor be a Certified Public Accountant and removes an obsolete practice of holding a bond.

MEASURE V – Treasurer

Measure V adds a qualification to the City Charter for Treasurer requiring a license as a Charter Financial Analyst or Certified Financial Planner and modernizes duties to recommend, monitor or report rather than simply having custody of city money.

MEASURE W – Public Utilities Board

The current City Charter states that city owned public utilities established for the purpose of transportation are within the jurisdiction of the Public Utilities Board. Measure W amends the Charter by removing the word 'transportation'.

MEASURE X – Historical Advisory Board

Measure V amends the City charter to eliminate the reason for removal from the Historical Advisory Board so that there is consistency among all the boards.

FISCAL EFFECT

These measures have no fiscal effect.

WHAT A YES OR NO VOTE MEANS

A YES vote for any of the Measures Q-X means that the City Charter should be changed for that Measure.

A NO vote for any of the Measures Q-X means the City Charter should not be changed for that Measure.

SUPPORTERS SAY

MEASURE Q:

- The City Charter was adopted in 1937 and no extensive clean up has been done in more than 25 years.
- If passed Measure Q would clarify the Charter and make it easier to use and read.
- The clean up allows the Council to set meeting schedules according to the needs of the community.

MEASURE R – Contracts

- The Measure would make it clear that the City has no obligation unless there is a written contract and that the contract complies with City Charter.

MEASURE S – Emergency Bidding

- City staff need to be able to respond promptly in an emergency.
- As a protection any contract entered into by staff would not be valid until it is ratified by Council at their next meeting.
- The Measure is a balance between allowing City staff to respond promptly and sound fiscal oversight.

MEASURE T – City Hours

- The City Council should have flexibility to modify hours for government offices to meet the needs of the community rather than a mandated 9 am -5 pm schedule.

MEASURE U – Auditor

- It is expected that the Auditor must be licensed as a Certified Public Accountant and this should be stated in the Charter.
- There is no longer any need for the Auditor to post bond in order to serve as auditor.
Today, cities protect themselves with insurance and a risk-sharing pool.

MEASURE V – Treasurer

- It is expected that the Treasurer should have a license as a Chartered Financial Analysis or Certified Financial Planner and this should be stated in the City Charter..
- There is no longer any need for the Treasurer to post bond to serve as treasurer.
Today, cities protect themselves with insurance and a risk-sharing pool.

MEASURE W – Public Utilities Board

- For several decades the Public Utilities Board oversaw bus lines in Alameda. Today, the Board does not manage transportation and it should be removed the list of utilities under its jurisdiction.
- It is expected that the Treasurer should have a license as a Chartered Financial Analysis or Certified Financial Planner and this should be stated in the City Charter.
- There is no longer any need for the treasurer to post bond to serve as treasurer.
Today, cities protect themselves with insurance and a risk-sharing pool.

MEASURE X – Historical Advisory Board

- Members of boards and commissions should hold office under equal rules. While members of other boards and commissions may be removed by City Council, members of the Historical Advisory Board may be removed only when a member moves out of town or commits a wrongdoing.

OPPONENTS SAY – No official ballot opposition statement has been filed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SUPPORTERS: Mayor Beverly Johnson, Vice Mayor Lena Tam, Councilmembers Doug deHaan, Marie Gilmore and Frank Matarrese

Join us! Go to the web site above, click on the Join Us!, print out and fill out the form and send it in with your dues to P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501 to start a time of great fulfillment and new friendships in contributing to your community. Our membership is comprised of both men and women.

RECOGNITION FOR ONE OF OUR FINEST

On September 2nd, our City Council recognized our own Audrey Lord-Hausman for her contributions to the community. Audrey's work with children and youth and crime prevention is well known. Her work with us as the long-time coordinator of our successful annual "Meet Your Public Officials" night has been phenomenal. Each year, the event has brought in more money and run more smoothly. Audrey is retiring from the City and is soon to take a wonderful European trip. She's going to take a few well-deserved months off to rest and recuperate. We wish her every happiness in her retirement and a hearty "bon voyage!"

CITY COUNCIL AGREES TO ENDORSE PROPOSITION 11 – REDISTRICTING

The LWVC has given a "strongly support" position on Proposition 11, which will create an independent commission, with specific rules and requirements for great transparency to handle California's redistricting effort.

In late August, we gave a presentation to the City Council to educate them on the measure and asked them for their endorsement. Thanks to Councilman deHaan, who made the motion at the first meeting to put it on the September 2nd agenda for discussion and a vote, we were able to appear again, answer some questions, and see them vote to endorse. The vote was 5-0 in favor. Thanks go to our Action Team – Karen Butter and Sally Faulhaber, and Voter Education Chair – Joanne McKray for a job well done!

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO STOCK VOTER REGISTRATION FORMS

Would you like to be a critical part of the election process in this exciting presidential election year? League of Women Voters of Alameda is looking for volunteers to stock voter registration forms at locations in Alameda. I'm looking for 2 or 3 people who have about an hour a week to check in on 4 to 5 sites - materials are supplied. If this would fit into your schedule, let me know.

Dorothy Fullerton 510 769-9159 or dkf48@alamedanet.net

ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY IN ALAMEDA COUNTY

As you may know, the LWV Alameda County Council, representing the seven Leagues of Women Voters in the county, is a member of the newly-formed Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. The goal of this effort is to bring together a broad spectrum of community leaders and organizations in Alameda County to begin working on a strategy to end the use of the death penalty in this county, and to shift resources to more effective public safety measures, such as violence prevention and re-entry programs.

The Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty has launched a campaign to gather resolutions from unions, religious groups, political organizations, and professional associations whose members live in Alameda County (and surrounding areas). The League has signed the resolution. Are you part of a group that would consider passing a resolution?

Why Alameda County? Alameda County is one of the most aggressive counties in Northern California with regards to the use of the death penalty, but it has one of the most progressive voting records on criminal justice issues, including the death penalty. At the same time, it has fewer violence prevention and re-entry programs than neighboring San Francisco County, which has abandoned the death penalty as a failed public policy. Alameda County's policies are not in tune with the needs and desires of the voters.

If so, let me know; my phone number and email are below.

Check the coalition's new website for information, coming events, and opportunities to volunteer:

<http://alamedadeathpenalty.org/>

--Marion Taylor, LWV Liaison to the Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty. 510-532-5797, mariontaylor@mac.com

Next Board Meeting
Thursday – October 23rd, 7:30
Alameda Hospital
Conference Room C
2070 Clinton Avenue
Alameda



Board Meetings are open to all
Please note – this is 4th Thursday this month.

REGIONAL ISSUES AND THE LEAGUE

We all leave Alameda once in a while to shop, work, hike in a regional park, or go to a baseball game. There is a level of League that addresses the issues that affect us all on a level between the LWV Alameda and LWV California: It is the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area. LWVBA includes the 20 local Leagues in the nine Bay Area counties.

Much of the work of the LWVBA concerns environmental issues: air quality, water resources, parks, and increasingly, transportation, especially in relation to housing and jobs. A while ago they supported our efforts to keep the shoreline trail on Alameda Point on the shore.

With no regional elected body to deal with these issues, governance in the region is by a multitude of agencies, including the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), and Association of Bay Area Governments, (ABAG), as well as all the cities and counties. (See Decision Makers on www.lwvbayarea.org for info on these and more.) The closest thing we have to a comprehensive regional governing body is the Joint Policy Committee, which coordinates the planning efforts of ABAG, the Air Quality District, BCDC, and MTC.

If environmental issues are your cup of tea, consider observing one of these agencies for the League. Observer reports are a source for the *Bay Area Monitor*, a publication also available on the LWVBA website. See "Request for Regional Meeting Monitors" in this VOTER for how to volunteer.

SMART VOTER KEY FEATURES

The Smart Voter site www.smartvoter.org allows users to find their custom ballot and polling place by entering their street address and zip code. Users may access "home pages" of each participating candidate that include their biography, endorsements, top priorities if elected, and position papers. All candidates in the participating counties are invited to participate. Each page about a contest includes links to relevant news or analysis articles written by online local media organizations or other nonpartisan information.

LWV of the BAY AREA STANDS ON NOVEMBER BALLOT MEASURES

MEASURE VV

AC TRANSIT PARCEL TAX MEASURE: YES
Measure VV increases the existing parcel tax dedicated to AC transit by \$4 a month for ten years. Annual cost to each property owner would rise from \$48 to \$96 a year. Funds will support AC transit bus service which is facing a \$20 million deficit, partially caused by a 55% increase price of fuel in the past four years. AC Transit bus service benefits us all by providing transportation for those who cannot drive and those who cannot afford rising cost of gas.

MEASURE WW

EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK BOND MEASURE: YES

Measure WW extends a bond measure (Measure AA) passed in 1988 without raising the present property tax rates above the present rate of \$10 per year, per \$100,000 assessed valuation. 75% of the funds will pay for regional park acquisitions and capital projects. 25% will go to cities, special park and recreation districts and county service areas for their park and recreation services. Measure WW will help preserve our vanishing open space, available parklands, and shoreline for the growing number of residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

VOTING NEWS

- Last Day to Register to Vote is October 20th.
- Not sure you are properly registered? Go to the County Registrar of Voters site at www.acgov.org/rov/index to find out.
- Would you like to work at the polls on November 4th? Go to the Registrar of Voters web site at www.co.alameda.ca.us/rov/workers.htm to fill out an on-line poll worker application form, or call them at 510 272-6971.
- Want to know what is on your ballot? Go to www.smartvoter.org and enter your address to see your ballot. Click on any candidate or issue and see the background information.

Join or Renew your membership in the Alameda League Today!



Name _____
 Other Names _____ (if a family membership)
 Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____
 Phone _____ e-mail _____

\$65 Single Membership \$85 Family Membership \$25 Student Membership Dues year is Jan 1 – Dec 31.
 Dues assistance is available for those on limited income – Contact us at 869-4969. Make Check payable to LWV Alameda and mail to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501

Education Fund donations are Tax Deductible

Donations to the League of Women Voters Educations Fund are tax deductible. Consider sending a check for \$5 or more made out to LWV Ed Fund with your renewal, or at any time to LWV Alameda, P. O. Box 1645. Alameda, CA 94501

Turn your Trash into Cash for the Ed Fund

Lynn and Jim Groh collect aluminum cans, sell them and give the proceeds to the Ed Fund. Drop your aluminum cans on their front porch at 1546 Eastshore Drive, Alameda, and help the League educate voters.

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