

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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www.LWVAlameda.org

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 5, September - October 2018

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LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ALAMEDA

Fall 2018 election forums!



Thu. Sept. 27, 7-9 PM

Candidates for AUSD and Health District Boards
PHOENIX, 2315 Lincoln

Wed. Oct. 3, 7-9 PM

Candidates for MAYOR, City Ballot Measures
ELKS LODGE, 2255 Santa Clara

Thu. Oct. 11, 7-9 PM

Candidates for ALAMEDA CITY COUNCIL
ELKS LODGE, 2255 Santa Clara

Thu. Oct. 25, 7-9 PM

State & Regional Ballot Propositions
PHOENIX, 2315 Lincoln

Info: LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- FRI. SEP. 7**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. Pasta Pelican, 2455 Mariner Square Drive, Alameda.
RSVP: Ruth Dixon-Mueller (510) 865-2439 or dixonmueller@yahoo.com.
- THU. SEP. 20**
7:00pm-9:00pm
LWVA BOARD MEETING. Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. SEP. 24**
3:00pm-4:30pm
BOOK CLUB. The Line Becomes a River, by Francisco Cantu. **Applebee's Restaurant**, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- TUE. SEP. 25**
1:00pm-4:00pm
NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY. Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak St, Alameda. Help us register voters! RSVP: Ken Werner at kpclub@yahoo.com.
- THU. SEP. 27**
7:00pm-9:00pm
FALL ELECTION 2018: FORUM #1. Phoenix Alameda, 2315 Lincoln Ave, Alameda. AUSD Board/Alameda Health Care Board candidates. Q&A. All welcome.
- WED. OCT. 3**
7:00pm-9:00pm
FALL ELECTION 2018: FORUM #2. Elks Lodge (upstairs), 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda. Alameda Mayor candidates & city ballot measures. Q&A. All welcome.
- FRI. OCT. 5**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. TBD. RSVP: Ruth Dixon-Mueller (510) 865-2439 or dixonmueller@yahoo.com.
- SUN. OCT. 7**
2:00pm-4:00pm
POTENTIAL MEMBER OPEN HOUSE. Home of Doris Gee. Members: bring a friend to learn about the League. Light refreshments. RSVP: dorisgee48@gmail.com.
- THU. OCT. 11**
7:00pm-9:00pm
FALL ELECTION 2018: FORUM #3. Elks Lodge (downstairs), 2255 Santa Clara Ave, Alameda. Meet Alameda City Council candidates. Q&A. All welcome.
- FRI. OCT. 12**
6:00pm-7:30pm
FALL ELECTION 2018: LWVO-FORUM. Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 1, One Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland. Candidates for Assessor & BART Board District 4.
- WED. OCT. 17**
BRING YOUR OWN BALLOT. Cardinal Point, 2431 Mariner Square, Alameda. Get help with ballot measures for the upcoming election. Time: TBD.
- THU. OCT. 18**
7:00pm-9:00pm
LWVA BOARD MEETING. Alameda Hospital, Room C (first floor). All LWVA members are welcome to attend.
- MON. OCT. 22**
3:00pm-4:30pm
BOOK CLUB. Hidden Figures, by Margot Lee Shetterly. **Applebee's Restaurant**, 2263 South Shore Center, Alameda.
- THU. OCT. 25**
7:00pm-9:00pm
FALL ELECTION 2018: FORUM #4. Phoenix Alameda, 2315 Lincoln Ave, Alameda. Learn about state & regional ballot measures. Q&A. All welcome.
- FRI. NOV. 2**
5:30pm-7:00pm
FIRST FRIDAY SOCIAL. TBD. RSVP: Ruth Dixon-Mueller (510) 865-2439 or dixonmueller@yahoo.com.

Youth Engagement

Fundraiser

Want to encourage more young people to become involved in civic affairs? Would you like to help them become informed, critical thinkers? **A donation to our Youth Engagement campaign will do just that!**

Begun in 2015, LWVA and CoA created a civics scholarship program as a response to the national objective of increasing youth engagement in the League as well as exposing high school students to the League's education and advocacy missions, enhancing the college's community impact and enriching civics and public speaking education in our school system.



Students have an opportunity to improve their skills with this speech tournament competition. The winner and runner up will receive college scholarship awards. All participants earn college credit from the Communications Department at CoA plus the bonus of an LWVA reference on their resume for college admittance.

Please consider a donation to further this program. You may mail your check to LWVA/Youth Outreach at P.O. Box 1645, Alameda CA 94501 or donate online with your credit card at bit.ly/2BLXIGu.

Thank you for helping us build the Youth Engagement Scholarship Fund, which will further the mission of the League and enable Alameda high school students to become productive citizens, confident and able to communicate effectively and with civility. See the thermometer that tracks progress towards our \$3,000 goal at bit.ly/2w8vOJM.



Seeking Topic for Annual Speech Tournament

Next April, the LWVA and College of Alameda will present our fourth annual speech tournament for local high school students.

What should this year's topic be? Previously, students have taken positions on immigration reforms, abolishing the Electoral College, requiring photo ID to vote, and reducing the voting age to 16.

Email your suggestion to Alice Fried at alicefried89@gmail.com.

We want to hear from you!



Membership Update – by Membership VP Doris Gee

LWVA Membership Directory Updates

Please note the following changes. Adina Singer, our Treasurer, has a new email address: adinasinger@gmail.com. Doug Neu, our Fundraising Chair, has a new home address: 1443 Ninth Street, Alameda, CA 94501.

Potential Member Open House

This event will be held on Sunday, 7 October from 2pm-4pm. All members, please bring an interested friend learn about the League at the home of Doris Gee. Light refreshments will be served. After you RSVP to dorisgee48@gmail.com, you will receive the address.

Youth Outreach

Do you know any students age 16 years or older? They are eligible for the free membership to the League of Women Voters. Help register young voters. Learn about the local issues. It looks great on college applications! The League will give community hours for assisting at League events. Contact dorisgee48@gmail.com.

B.Y.O.B (Bring Your Own Ballot)

The League will be at Cardinal Point (a senior care facility) on Wednesday, 17 October to help with state, regional, and local ballot measures. Time to be determined, and the address is 2431 Mariner Square, Alameda.

Fall Election 2018

LWVA & LWVO Forums

Come meet local candidates. Find out what you need to know about state, regional, and city ballot measures. Get prepared to vote in the 6 November election!

- 27 Sep from 7pm-9pm
Phoenix Alameda, 2315 Lincoln Avenue
Candidates for Alameda School Board & Health Care Board
- 03 Oct from 7pm-9pm
Elks Lodge (upstairs), 2255 Santa Clara Avenue
Candidates for Alameda Mayor & City Ballot Measures
- 11 Oct from 7pm-9pm
Elks Lodge (downstairs), 2255 Santa Clara Avenue
Candidates for Alameda City Council
- 12 Oct from 6pm-7:30pm
Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 1,
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland
Candidates for Alameda Co. Assessor/BART Board District 4
- 25 Oct from 7pm-9pm
Phoenix Alameda, 2315 Lincoln Avenue
State & Regional Ballot Measures





Alameda Candidates

- Mayor - Marilyn Ezzy Ashcraft, Frank Matarrese, and Trish Spencer.
- City Council - Stewart Chen, Tony Daysog, John Knox White, Robert C. Matz, and Jim Oddie.
- Health Care District Board - Mike McMahon and Dennis Popalardo.
- Alameda Unified School District - Mia Bonta, Kevin Jordan, Gary Lym, and Anne McKereghan.

This is a semi-final list from acgov.org/rov_app/candidatelist. You can find candidates who have completed filing for all races/offices on your November ballot there, and soon at votersedge.org/ca.

Ballot Measure Pros & Cons

The LWVC has prepared pros and cons for state ballot measures, and the LWVA has prepared pros and cons for city ballot measures F (a half-cent sales tax proposal) and K (a rent charter amendment).

City/state ballot measure pros and cons are at bit.ly/2PBFSmP. (Copy & paste link into your Internet browser.)

No League pros and cons for regional ballot measures have been completed. When ready, they will be announced by eBlasts and placed on our website. For now, you may read about them at the below links.

- | | | |
|--------------|---|--|
| • Measure E | Continued parcel tax for Peralta Community Colleges | bit.ly/2P56QSS |
| • Measure F | Tax extension for East Bay Regional Parks | bit.ly/2wvBkpA |
| • Measure GG | Bond measure for Peralta Community Colleges | bit.ly/2LsvGde |

Vote with the League

Statewide ballot measure recommendations by the LWVC are at bit.ly/2P0kTZR and abbreviated below.

- | | | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|------------|
| • Prop 1 | Veterans/Affordable Housing Bond | Yes |
| • Prop 2 | Homeless Housing Bond | Yes |
| • Prop 3 | Water Bond | No |
| • Prop 4 | Children's Hospital Bond | No |
| • Prop 5 | Property Tax | No |
| • Prop 6 | Gas Tax Repeal | No |
| • Prop 10 | Repeal Costa Hawkins | Yes |

The LWV California is taking no stand on Props 7, 8, 11, and 12; and Prop 9 was removed from the ballot.

No LWV Alameda/LWV Bay Area recommendations for regional or city ballot measures have been completed. When ready, they will be announced by eBlasts and placed on our website.

Volunteer Opportunity

We need you during this busy pre-election season. You can help:

- Register voters,
- Present ballot measure pros and cons,
- Distribute printed Easy Voter Guides,
- Help at candidate forums, or
- Post information on the Voter's Edge website.

Email voterservice@lwvalameda.org to volunteer. Training will be provided; no worries, you can do this!





Ways to Evaluate Ballot Measures – by Anne Spanier (edited with author’s permission from a 15 Aug 2016 East Bay Times article at bayareane.ws/2MAyHNP.)

There are several important distinctions among the ballot measures that voters should consider. A constitutional measure writes new language into the state constitution that is extremely difficult to rescind once enacted. A simpler approach is the statute, which can be direct or indirect. Direct statutes are citizen-sponsored as previously described. An indirect proposition is citizen-inspired, occasionally by powerful interests and given to the Legislature to place on the ballot.

While the initiative process encourages citizen participation, there are opportunities for influence by special interests. One concern is the process of gathering signatures for a measure. Small grass roots organizations usually must rely on volunteers, while well-financed organizations such as insurance, tobacco and oil interests can afford to pay professionals who are able to gain signatures more quickly. Attempts to ban paying signature gatherers have failed in California, although California does require residency and training for signature gatherers. Additionally, those who propose ballot measures must be named in the document published by the secretary of state.

Another technique used to confuse voters is long and densely worded propositions. Voters, however, often vote no if they are tired or confused or both. Initiative sponsors have also targeted measures for primary election ballots where there is low voter turnout and greater likelihood to pass with a smaller number of supporters. Because signatures needed are based on previous elections, California now has a very low threshold for signatures needed to qualify for the ballot. This relative ease spurs those with issues to place their favorite cause on the ballot. To counteract this strategy, the state legislature passed a law requiring ballot measures to be placed on the November election rather than the June primary. The result has been a very high number of ballot measures for general elections.

Are citizens sufficiently informed about the measure when casting their vote? Research shows that overall they are not. Voters rely on many sources and cues such as endorsements from trusted civic leaders, civic-minded groups, industry support and trusted media or newspapers. Nevertheless, citizens are highly supportive of “direct democracy” and prefer its results to that of legislative action.

Here are League recommendations on how to evaluate ballot propositions:

- Does the measure clearly identify one issue that you agree with and can answer yes or no? Or is it confusing, citing more than one outcome and thus, something that should be legislatively reviewed for clarity?
- Who are the sponsors of this measure? Where is the money coming from? Check the Voter’s Edge website for this information. Who are the opponents, and what do they say?
- Will this measure require new sources of revenue? Does it earmark, restrict or obligate government revenues? Does it mandate a government program without sources of revenue?
- Is it a constitutional amendment? Should it be? Would a statute be more reasonable?
- Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on imagery but give no factual information. Beware of half-truths. In fact it is wise to be skeptical of last minute “hit pieces.”

It is well worth your time to become informed about what you will be voting on this November. Ballot measures can have lasting impact, and they have been used to address significant issues like the death penalty, voting rights, and civil liberties. Attend our upcoming election forums to quickly educate yourself on the issues.