

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ALAMEDA
BOARD MEETING MINUTES, September 21, 2024
Online via Zoom

Board members present: Anna Crane, presiding; Keasha Martindill, Ashley Lorden, Susan Hauser, Jeff Cambra, Linda Lyons-Justus. **Other members present:** Lianne Campodonico, Paul Beusterien, Irene Dieter, Paula Rainey.

Call to Order: Anna Crane called the meeting to order at 9:34 AM. Susan moved, Ken seconded, and we approved to accept the agenda. Keasha moved, Paul seconded, and we approved the last meeting's minutes and the presented budget. Keasha moved, Linda seconded, and we approved a formal statement to co-sponsor upcoming candidate forums on 9/28/24: "The LWV of Alameda shall co-sponsor an Alameda City Council Candidate Forum and an Alameda Unified School District (AUSD) Board Candidate Forum during September 2024 with the Alameda Post. These forums shall remain non-partisan, and we reserve the right to publicly disassociate ourselves from any forum that is not non-partisan."

Bylaws: At some point before our next Annual Meeting, we need to review and likely update our bylaws per the recommendation from LWVC as shared in a template. One important change as part of the new centralized membership system is that the membership cycle will match our fiscal year starting July 1 annually.

Nonpartisanship Policy: We discussed the various ways that the League or its Board Members could be perceived as partisan. We agreed to update our Nonpartisan Policy to give more specific guidance, while keeping the general policy that members should raise any doubts about political participation to the Board so we can consider and advise. Keasha moved, Susan seconded, and we approved iterating on a proposed draft with the aim to approve it at our next meeting. We also reviewed our Cosponsorship Policy, and did not recommend any changes at this time.

Membership structure changes: We are unclear on the timing of membership cycles under the new system, and the best way to transition from our current system to the new one. Lianne will help research this and advise at our next meeting. We do plan to conduct our membership campaign as usual in the next months.

Free speech/academic freedom: A member presented a proposal for us to advocate for free speech on university campuses by sending letters in support to LWVC and LWVUS. There are several current bills that LWVC could advocate on but as far as we know, LWVC has not taken a position (SB1287, SB3024, SB1277) – or, LWVC and/or LWVUS could make a statement without specifically addressing those bills. We believe it is likely too late in the legislative process for LWVC to effectively advocate for these bills, but we will attempt to connect to the LWVC advocacy group to raise it. We aligned on sending a proposed

statement to LWVUS for their consideration, and will approve a final draft over email in the next days.

Open floor: We have multiple upcoming candidate forums 9/21, 9/23, 9/28, and 9/30 and invite our members and the public to join. We will host voter registration tables at several upcoming events and invite additional volunteers.

Meeting adjourned by Anna Crane at 12:12pm.