



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS
NOVEMBER 8, 2005 SPECIAL ELECTION

X PROP 73 *Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor's Pregnancy.* **OPPOSE**

Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives and all parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put teenagers in real danger.

X PROP 74 *Public School Teachers. Waiting Period for Permanent Status. Dismissal.* **OPPOSE**

The League supports fair, rigorous, and effective teacher evaluation and tenure procedures. However, this measure raises questions of due process rights and may limit the use of dismissal for cause. It does nothing to encourage teachers to enter and remain in the profession.

X PROP 75 *Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on Political Contributions. Employee Consent Requirements.* **OPPOSE**

The League supports fair, even-handed campaign finance reform, but this measure is bad policy. It restricts public employee unions' use of member dues for political activity but has no similar constraint on corporations.

X PROP 76 *State Spending and School Funding Limits.* **OPPOSE**

This constitutional amendment changes the state's spending cap, increases the governor's power to make budget cuts, and revises the Proposition 98 minimum guarantees for state support of education. It reduces flexibility to address changing needs and will cause cuts in essential services. School funding will be permanently reduced by \$4 billion per year. Our system of checks and balances will be undermined by giving this and all future governors the power to make cuts unilaterally. This is not budget reform!

X PROP 78 *Discounts on Prescription Drugs.* **OPPOSE**

There are two prescription drug initiatives on this ballot. Drug companies have contributed over \$50 million to support Proposition 78, an inferior program that depends on their voluntary participation.

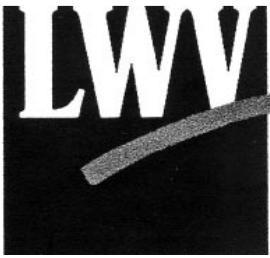
✓ PROP 79 *Prescription Drug Discounts. State-Negotiated Rebates.* **SUPPORT**

Proposition 79 offers deeper drug discounts to nearly twice as many Californians as Proposition 78. It has an enforcement mechanism to hold drug companies accountable for providing discounts.

PROP 77, Reapportionment, may or may not appear on the November ballot. The LWVC has not yet taken a position on this initiative. We have urged the legislature and governor to negotiate to place an alternative measure on the ballot.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in *PROP 80, Electric Service Providers. Regulation*, the LWVC is remaining neutral on this initiative. 8/2/2005

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8, 2005



Alameda Voter

Volume 38 Number 6

September 2005

'Issues and Challenges at Alameda Point' Sept. 29

Here's your opportunity to help shape the future of Alameda Point, the single largest development undertaken in the City of Alameda. Linda Hudson, League of Women Voters Alameda (LWVA) Program Chair, urges our members and the community to come and voice opinions.

The LWVA and the Alameda Ministerial Association present "Issues and Challenges at Alameda Point" from 7 to 9:30 p.m. Sept. 29 at Christ Church, Santa Clara and Grand streets, Alameda,

This will be the first of a two-part series, Part Two will be Nov. 16.

These meetings give you an opportunity to help determine the future of the City for the next 50 years.

"This important two-part series gives the community an opportuni-

|| This meeting provides your opportunity to help determine the future of the city for the next 50 years."

LWVA Program Chair Linda Hudson

ty to review the plans to date and to express opinions/desires/wishes for this exciting development," Hudson said.

The program, open to the public, will present an overview summarizing the results of six community meetings held to discuss the Alameda Point Preliminary Concept plans, including Measure A

and non-Measure A-compliant designs.

Transportation issues will be an important portion of the program. Barbara Hawkins, City Engineer for the City of Alameda, has been working with regional agencies to find ways to improve freeway access from the Oakland side and to minimize congestion at Alameda's entrances and exits. She will encourage public comment for important feedback to all communities involved in this transportation issue.

Part II of the program being presented Nov. 16 will focus on historic preservation, housing choices, financial trade-offs, recreation, transportation and other issues affecting the City for years to come.

Want more information? Call Helen Sause at 521-3940 or Linda Hudson at 864-0370.

Where State League stands on redistricting

In 1987 and 1988, the League of Women Voters conducted an extensive study of the redistricting process in California. We immediately applied our resulting position in support of Proposition 119, an unsuccessful attempt to establish an independent commission to draw district lines in California.

The next two redistricting plans drawn by the state legislature (in 1991 and 2001) either

were rejected by the courts or were widely criticized as being fundamentally flawed.

Today we find ourselves in the middle of a sustained public debate on the future of redistricting in California, a debate that will continue for some time.

What does the League have to say about the way California should redistrict?

In brief, we support a redistricting process and

standards that promote fair and effective representation in the state legislature and in the House of Representatives, with maximum opportunity for public scrutiny of the process. And we support redistricting by a bipartisan commission rather than by the legislature.

The standards on which a redistricting plan should be based, regardless of who has responsibility for redistricting,

Please see STATE page 2

What's Inside

- Know Your Bay Area Day **2**
- Campaign finance reform and AB583 **3**
- LWVA asks city to be inclusive on Alameda Point EIR **4**
- Issues with the Patriot Act **5**
- Calendar **6**

League's 'Know Your Bay Area Day' Sept. 24

"Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA): How Has It Worked, Does It Need To Be Changed?" is this year's topic at "Know Your Bay Area Day".

This Sept. 24 event is being held from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Fremont Main Library, Fukya Room, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont.

An overview of CEQA will be given by – Janet McBride, planning director with the Association of Bay Area Governments.

Next, "Perspectives on How CEQA Has Worked," will be discussed by a panel including Joe Horwedel, deputy director of Planning Implementation for

the city of San Jose; Joseph Perkins, CEO, Home Builders Assoc. of N. Calif.; Juliet Ellis, executive director, Urban Habitat and Stuart Flashman, attorney, environmental and land use law

The third discussion is "Should CEQA be Reformed?" Speaking will be Andrew Michael, vice president, Bay Area Council and Karen Douglas, general counsel of the Planning and Conservation League.

Registration is \$10 per person. Please confirm reservations by Sept. 22 to tamhege@aol.com or 510 832 4261 or send checks payable to LWVBA to Tam Hege, 80 Florada Ave, Piedmont, CA 94610.

League email contest announced

Throughout our 85 years, the League has pushed for fully informed, educated citizens to participate and be active in the issues of the day. Today, we are no different. We want the League membership to be as informed and active as possible and to have some fun!

In this spirit, the LWVUS is announcing a contest that will combine those ideas by generating interest in collecting emails. Having more of our members' emails allows us to vastly im-

prove and enhance our communications. All individual members whose email addresses are added or updated in the LWVUS database between Sept. 1 and Jan. 31, 2006, will be eligible for a drawing of prizes that includes valuable vintage posters, historical note cards and autographed publications.

Please spread the word and help LWVUS reach 100 percent of your members. You can update email addresses via the online database.

STATE from page 1

should include (1) substantially equal population, (2) geographic contiguity and (3) protection of the voting strength of a racial or linguistic minority from dilution.

These standards should also include respect for legal boundaries of cities and counties, and preservation and protection of "communities of interest."

The League places a good deal of emphasis on the importance of the structure of the redistricting process. It is clear that members feel that how redistricting is done is even more important than who does it.

League positions on opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making, the need for adequate notice of proposed actions and the need for open meetings are all crucial to member understanding of what constitutes a fair redistricting process.

The League believes that the redistricting process should include (1) specific time lines for the steps leading to adoption of the redistricting plan, (2) public hearings on the proposed plan, (3) an automatic nonjudicial backup procedure in the event of deadlock and (4) a requirement that any redistricting plan drawn by the legislature be adopted by

more than a simple majority vote.

Members prefer redistricting by a commission over redistricting by the legislature. Balance, however, is considered important and commission members should reflect California's diversity of population and varied geography, as well as a balance of economic, social and partisan interests.

Members conclude that a redistricting commission would make fair and effective representation a more likely outcome than the decisions of legislators, whose self-interests seem to dominate over their concern for fairness and the common good.

Directors, committees for 2005-06

The League has reorganized the board structure. Instead of a few position-holders doing much work, many committees will now take care of smaller jobs.

Elected Officers: President None; Vice President/Admin None; Vice President/Program Linda Hudson; Secretary Sally Faulhaber; Treasurer Pat Caito.

Elected Directors (6) – Three Agreeing to Serve: Juelle-Ann Boyer, Donna Vaughn, Cara Watkins.

Agreeing to Serve on Committees (New Leadership Method):

Administrative Committee: Dorothy Fullerton, Kate Quick, Pat Sahadi, Karen Scanlon, Lena Tam, Liz Rogers.

Action Committee: Karen Butter, Audrey Lord-Hausman, Felice Zensius, Ruth Belikove.

Communications Committee: Cara Watkins, Andrea Pook, Shuba Fanse, Donna Vaughn, Luann DeWitt, Li Volin, Lucile Harrison.

Membership Committee: Dorie Behrstock, Jean Fong, Connie Hanna, Stefani Komaru, Marilyn Ng.

Program Committee: Linda Hudson, Diane Lichtenstein, Sheila Turner, Helen Sause.

Voter Service Committee: Juelle-Ann Boyer, Pat Caito, Joanne McKray, Pat Sahadi, Helen Waldear

Nominating Committee: Nancy King, Chair, Honora Murphy, Jon Spangler.

AB 583 and campaign finance reform

By Joanne McKray
Boardmember

Five years after the citizens of Maine passed an initiative establishing a clean money system for choosing their representatives, the Maine Legislature has given established universal health care for all residents. This is just one of the interesting facts representatives of five East Bay Leagues learned at a meeting with Assemblywoman Loni Hancock last year.

Hancock is convinced that, until the stranglehold of special interests on the California Legislature is removed, universal health care and any number of vital needs will not be seriously addressed in our state.

She therefore has introduced AB 583 which would provide that public money from a designated funding source, such as a surcharge on civil and criminal fines, be used to pay for campaigns for qualifying candidates for state offices. (The amount to be spent on this November's special election would go a long way toward paying for the first round.)

The State and National Leagues have long supported clean money elections, and therefore the meeting centered around discussion on what Leagues could do on the local level to help move AB 583 forward. The following ideas were among those discussed: broadly publicize and find attendees for a hearing or townhall on the bill which will be held sometime late fall in the East Bay; hold a League East Bay Forum on the subject (Loni Hancock and Susan Lerner, Executive Director of The California Clean Money Campaign, would be happy to participate); writing op-eds and letters to the editor prior to the hearing and possible forum; provide speakers for community groups; publish a message from Loni Hancock in local Voters.

Two quotes about enactment of a clean money system at the meeting bear repeating: "Either the public buys the politicians or the special interests will." – George Skelton, *Los Angeles Times*. "The question shouldn't be how you can afford to do this, but how can you afford not to." – Mark Spitzer(R), Chair of the Arizona Corporations Commission.

❗❗ **Either the public buys the politicians or the special interests will."**

Photographs celebrate women's suffrage

In celebration of the 85th anniversary of women's right to vote in the United States, the Library of Congress announces the online release of "Women of Protest: Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party," at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/suffrage/nwp/>.

This presentation is a selection of 448 of the more than 2,500 photographs in the Records of the National Woman's Party, housed in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress.

Representing the militant wing of the suffrage movement, the National Woman's Party (NWP) effectively commanded the attention of politicians and the public through its aggressive agitation, relentless lobbying, creative publicity stunts, and disarming examples of civil disobedience.

It used tableaux, parades, demonstrations, and picketing – as well as its members' arrests, imprisonment and hunger strikes - to spur public discussion and win publicity for the suffrage cause.

"Women of Protest" presents images that depict the NWP's broad range of tactics as well as individual portraits of organization leaders and members.

The photographs span from about 1875 to 1938

but largely date between 1913 and 1922. They document the National Woman's Party's push for passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, as well as its later campaign for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The National Woman's Party was one of the most important national suffrage organizations in the U.S. as well as a leading advocate for women's political, social and economic equality throughout much of the 20th century.

An offshoot of the National American Woman Suffrage Association (NAWSA), the NWP was instrumental in achieving passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment nationally extending suffrage to women Aug. 26, 1920.

"Women of Protest: Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party" is one of more than 125 thematic collections in American Memory (<http://memory.loc.gov>), the Library's multimedia Web site containing items ranging from the papers of U.S. presidents, Civil War photographs and early films of Thomas Edison to papers documenting the women's suffrage and civil rights movements, Jazz Age photographs and the first baseball cards.

League asks city to include Measure A non-compliant plans for Point study

The Alameda League submitted a letter in July to the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority as well as the City Council asking that they include the non-Measure A compliant plans in the EIR process, as well as the Measure A-complaint plans. Here is the letter.

Governing Board Members:

We congratulate the Alameda Reuse and Redevelopment Authority (ARRA) on the public input process for the development of Alameda Point. The six well-attended public workshops did a good job of presenting the plans and the choices for this development, which is so important to the future of our city. Members of the League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) attended each of the workshops.

Our members noted that, in these workshops, a good deal of interest was expressed in both the Measure A-compliant and non-compliant plans. The inclusion of a non-compliant plan was the result of public input – not just by one group, but by many individuals.

In order to ensure that a full and transparent process continues, we feel it is important that both the compliant and non-compliant plans be included in the process of developing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Alameda Point.

The League is not advocating at this time for any particular plan, but rather, for a complete and inclusive process in accordance with its position on good government, whereby the public is included in decision-making and governmental processes are kept transparent.

Open government and informed participation of the citizenry are fundamental principles of the League of Women Voters. We look forward to seeing the great start on full citizen participation continue as planning for Alameda Point proceeds.

**Respectfully submitted,
Linda Hudson
Vice President and Program Chair**

Stay informed with Smart Voter

Go to www.smartvoter.org for analyses and full text of the Nov. 8 ballot measures

Smart Voter (www.smartvoter.org) contains election information from candidates and government elections departments.

It provides information from League of Women Voters organizations and links to news media and other election sites. Archives of past elections are also kept.

When you log on you can access such information as your ballot with polling place by simply entering your address.

You can read statements directly from candidates. There are links to League of Women Voters analyses of propositions or measures, as well as links to other sources.

Handy Web sites

- | | |
|---|--|
| ■Oakland League:
www.lwvoakland.org | ■LWVBA Monitor:
www.bayareamonitor.org |
| ■Bay Area League:
www.lwvba-ca.org | ■Sen. Barbara Boxer: senator@boxer.senate.gov |
| ■State League:
www.ca.lwv.org | ■Sen. Diane Feinstein:
senator@feinstein.senate.gov |
| ■National League:
www.lwv.org | ■The White House:
www.whitehouse.gov |
| ■LWV Smart Voter:
www.smartvoter.org | |

Civil Liberties Panel Discussion – available on DVD

Leaguemembers can order copies of the LWVUS Council panel discussion "Civil Liberties: Balancing Liberty and Security." This interesting and educational 1-1/2 hour program features Washington insiders discussing the intricacies and challenges of balancing civil liberties and homeland security and how these issues impact communities across the country.

This DVD (publication #2075) is available for \$5 (including shipping and handling) by contacting pubsales@lwv.org.

Keep in touch with your League

Have you moved? Have you changed your phone number or email address? Does your League have the best ways to get in touch with you? Don't let the League lose contact with you.

Send any new contact information to Jean Fong, membership director. Write her at 734 Palmera Court, Alameda, CA 94501. Call her at (510) 522-7797. Or email her at jfong1@comcast.net

Speaking out on Patriot Act renewal

By Chris Carson
Government Director,
govt@lwvc.org

In support of our LWVUS position on sunseting certain provisions of the Patriot Act, the LWVC has joined the American Civil Liberties Union-Northern California, Physicians for Social Responsibility and the California Library Association in advocating thoughtful reconsideration of this law. We issued a statement summarizing our positions which will be distributed to editorial boards as the vote in Congress approaches.


"The League of Women Voters of California strongly opposes making permanent provisional sections of the USA PATRIOT Act that were passed in the immediate aftermath of 9/11. Knowing that these provisions could damage the civil liberties of all Americans, Congress required that they be eliminated if not specifically renewed by Dec. 31.

"While Congress has been mired in partisan bickering and closed door hearings, apparently planning to make those provisions permanent, Americans of all political persuasions--from the ACLU to the NRA--have argued against renewing them.

"The League of Women Voters of California strongly believes that we can neither protect our democracy nor defeat terrorism by curtailing the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

"The League has defended the

Constitution and opposed efforts to curtail it many times in American history. It was the first national organization to oppose Sen. Joe McCarthy in the witch hunts of the 1950s, leading communities around the country in a series of dialogues called the 'Freedom Agenda.' Then, as now, Americans needed to talk openly about their fears and to understand what liberty requires and how our enemy would destroy it.

 **The League of Women Voters of California strongly believes that we can neither protect our democracy nor defeat terrorism by curtailing the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution."**

It is time again to recommit ourselves to the recognition that a democratic society depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens at all levels of government; and that governmental bodies must protect the citizen's right to know by giving adequate notice of proposed actions, holding open meetings and making public records accessible.

"In a time of terror, there may be things about specifics acts and individuals we cannot know. In a democracy, however, all of us must know what procedures are used to ensure our protection, and who provides the oversight that those who implement them are following the law.

"Yet again, Congress appears to be hiding behind closed doors, and rushing through legislation that we know will risk the liberty of some and consequently all. It is time for our representatives to uphold their oaths of office and protect and defend the Constitution by ensuring open government and freedom for all.

Take the 'Budget Challenge'

The State Budget has been signed, but the basic questions of how much money the state has and where it should be allocated still remain.

The California Budget Challenge – an online "game" <http://www.next-ten.org/>– lets you roll up your sleeves and create your own state budget for the next 10 years.

You call the shots on how much to give to schools, health care, prisons and other areas and also on how to pay for these programs.

It has added new policy options for transportation, and the gas tax as well as more information on corporate taxation. And they will be adding a new section on immigration later in the summer as well.

This was part of the Government workshop at convention and was greeted with enthusiasm. It is a perfect tool for members to educate themselves and the public on this most complex and vital issue.

Track the money

The money is already flowing in this year's Special Election campaign.

You can start tracking the contributions made to these campaigns through the California Secretary of State's Web site at <http://cal-access.ss.ca.gov/Campaign/>.

Calendar of events

All members and the public invited

Coming in October! League will hold community forums on the ballot measures. Dates to come.

- **Thursday, Sept. 15, 7 - 9 p.m.** - Board Meeting, Alameda Hospital, conference room C, 2070 Clinton Ave., Alameda
- **Saturday, Sept. 24, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.** - "Know Your Bay Area Day." Topic of discussion: "Reforming the California Environmental Quality Act: How Has It Worked, Does It Need To Be Changed?" Fremont Main Library, Fukya Room, 2400 Stevenson Blvd., Fremont. (See story page 2)
- **Thursday, Sept. 29, 7 - 9:30 p.m.** - "Issues and Challenges at Alameda Point" hosted by LWVA and the Alameda Ministerial Association. Christ Church, Santa Clara Avenue and Grand Street, Alameda. (See cover story)
- **Thursday, Oct. 20, 7 - 9 p.m.** - Board Meeting. Alameda Hospital, conference room C, 2070 Clinton Ave., Alameda
- **Tuesday, Nov. 8 - ELECTION DAY! VOTE!**

The League of Women Voters – a non-partisan political organization – encourages informed and active participation of citizens 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.

With membership comes the opportunity to work with well-informed, grassroots activists on a broad range of public policy concerns. Learn valuable, transferable skills, including how to organize and run productive meetings, write more effectively, speak in public, organize and run effective campaigns, conduct research studies, and coordinate general civic leadership training. The League invites your comments, letters and articles. They may be sent, faxed or e-mailed to the LWVA.

Join the League of Women Voters

Cut out, fill in and mail this coupon with your check to: League of Women Voters of Alameda, P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.

Dues: \$53 for a single membership; \$20 for an additional membership at the same address. Make checks payable to League of Women Voters of Alameda.

Joining at the local level makes you a member at all levels: Local, county, Bay Area, state and national.

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:



Please consider making a donation of \$5 or more to our Education Fund, the lifeblood of our public outreach activities. No amount is too small. Last year we had no donations, so we are trying to increase awareness this year. Your donations are tax deductible.

Mail your check to:
League of Women Voters of Alameda,
P.O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.

Include your name, address, phone, and email and the amount you've enclosed.

Thank you!



The League of Women Voters of Alameda
P.O. Box 1645
Alameda, CA 94501

Return Services Requested

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ALAMEDA, CA
PERMIT NO. 112