

## The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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The VOTER is published nine times a year. Current and past VOTER issues are posted on our web site.

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**The League of Women Voters**, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.  
*-LWV Mission Statement*

*The League never supports or opposes any political party or candidate.*



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October 2012

# VOTER

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation

## Voter Service: October Update

By the time you read this, our forum series will be well underway. Thanks in advance to all of you who volunteer to help make these forums so successful. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us for the rest of the Thursday night series.

The Candidate Forum for City Council candidates was October 4, with Pros and Cons on the ballot measures presented October 11.

The Candidate Forums flyer with information on all four events is here:

[http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/files/lwva\\_2012\\_cand\\_forum\\_flyer-js.pdf](http://alameda.ca.lwvnet.org/files/lwva_2012_cand_forum_flyer-js.pdf)

The AUSD Board of Education candidate forum is October 18 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

The last forum on October 25 includes candidates for both the Alameda Healthcare District Board and State Assembly District 18. The forums are all at Mastick Senior Center, 1155 Santa Clara Avenue, from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. All candidates have been invited to their respective forums.

### ELECTION REMINDERS

*The last day to register or re-register to vote is Monday, October 22.*

*The General Election is Tuesday, November 6.*

*Online Voter Registration is available:*

<http://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Be sure to visit <http://www.smartvoter.org> and learn about the state propositions. Please send out an alert about [smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) to everyone in your address book or publicize it using Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, or other social media—[smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org) is still new to lots of people.

**Thank you** to all of the volunteers who helped to distribute the **Easy Voter Guides**.

To help with the remaining candidate forums or replenishing voter registration affidavits, please contact Voter Service Chair Dorothy Fullerton (510-769-9159; [dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com](mailto:dorothy.fullerton@gmail.com)).

*--Dorothy Fullerton, Voter Service Chair*

**\*\*\* REMINDERS \*\*\***

**\*\* The last day to register for the General Election is Monday, October 22. \*\***

**\*\* Election Day is Tuesday, November 6. \*\***

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It's October—and our busiest voter education season is underway. Since August, Dorothy Fullerton and several volunteers have been carrying out the election activities we planned at our summer Board Retreat. They have been lining up the candidates and training the presenters for our candidate and Pros and Cons forums being held every Thursday this month. Our Smart Voter Chair, Juelle-Ann Boyer, has been busy, too: she was even working on the Smart Voter during her trip to Turkey and Greece.

This year, a presidential election, tons of local races, and a lot of state and local measures really test our abilities as a League to meet our core mission of voter education. My heartfelt gratitude goes to all those who have stepped forward to help. I encourage those who are thinking about helping, those who want to do some small task, and those who are new to the League to step forward and “get their feet wet” as well.

The Initiative and Referendum Reform (I & RR) Study Group is off to a good start under the able leadership of Felice Zensius. They will continue their engaging local study through the winter, and early spring: with the many ballot measures we have to consider this election, this State Study is proving to be quite timely.

Two Friday Night Flight fundraisers—October 19 and 26—plus a Mojito Monday fundraiser November 5 are coming up at Angela's Bistro at Central and Oak: all three take place from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. I hope we will have great participation at all three. Since election season is in full swing there will probably be a lot of political talk at these events for those who like to speculate. (They are always fun, whatever you want to talk about.)

Mojito Mondays work this way:

First you show up and order your Mojito at the bar. (You can have a non-alcoholic drink if you prefer.) The bartender will run a tab for you, which you pay as usual. But the key on Mojito Mondays is to pay attention to the tip jar: everything that goes in the tip jar November 5 goes to the League. Please tip generously while you schmooze with your friends, drink, and support the League: you can round out your evening with dinner later on (or not).

Join us for all these events—and bring your friends!

*--Kate Quick, President, LWVA*

## **UC Hastings Law Professor Michael Salerno to Address Initiative and Referendum Reform November 29**

Professor Michael Salerno of the UC Hastings School of Law will speak on “The Initiative and Referendum Process in California” on Thursday, November 29—probably in the evening—as part of the LWVA's local study of Initiative and Referendum Reform (I & RR) in California.

Professor Salerno, the associate director of the Center for State and Local Government Law at Hastings, is a noted expert on state and the initiative and referendum (I and R) process and is critical of the current state of I and R in California. A question and answer period will follow his 30-minute talk.

The time and location for Salerno's evening talk had not been arranged by press time. President Jannett Jackson of the College of Alameda is working on finding an on-campus venue for the evening of November 29. The LWVA has invited other local Leagues to attend, participate, and assist with the event.

More on Professor Salerno's experience and expertise may be found at the UC Hastings School of Law web site:  
<http://www.uchastings.edu/faculty-administration/faculty/salerno/index.html>

Please let me know if you can help with event planning, logistics, or publicity, or if you have ideas or suggestions. Thanks for your help!

*--Kate Quick, President, LWVA*

## Vote with the League November 6

### **YES Prop 30: Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act**

Proposition 30 begins to move California toward financial stability and adequate funding for all the services we want from our government; we cannot continue to cut vital public services like schools and public safety. This measure will provide some much needed income from a temporary increase in income tax rates for the wealthy and a modest temporary sales tax increase. The plan is a part of a balanced approach to eliminating our deficit that includes \$8 billion in cuts, \$6 billion in new revenues, and \$2.5 billion in loans, deferrals, etc., this year. Proposition 30 also guarantees a stable source of funding for counties to pay for their new public safety responsibilities such as housing low-level prisoners and providing substance abuse treatment.

### **NO Prop 31: Government Performance and Accountability Act**

Proposition 31 is based on good intentions and has some pieces that, taken alone, the League could support. However, Prop 31 has several significant flaws. There are questions about whether or not the provisions allow local governments to suspend state environmental requirements. What is clear is that there will be significant legal uncertainty, and years of litigation. In addition, the measure prescribes the specific manner of state and local government budgeting and puts this process into the state constitution. Prop 31 has other questionable provisions, such as establishing a significant shift of power over appropriations to the governor at times of fiscal emergency.

### **NO Prop 32: Special Exemptions Act**

This measure is not the campaign finance reform measure its proponents say it is. Proposition 32 promises “political reform” but is really designed by special interests to help themselves and harm their opponents. It looks like a campaign finance reform measure but unfairly targets one set of large campaign donors while giving other donors unlimited power. Its ban on payroll deductions for political giving will affect unions but not corporations, and even the restriction it places on contributions to candidates by corporations is full of loophole exemptions. It does not fix the problem of money in politics; Super PACs and independent expenditure committees will continue to spend without limitation.

### **YES Prop 34: SAFE California Act**

The SAFE California Act will replace the death penalty in California with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Convicted killers will stay in prison for the rest of their lives, eliminating the possibility of executing an innocent person in California. This will save over \$100 million every year—because the court and incarceration costs are so much higher for prisoners at risk for a death penalty. \$100 million of these savings will be allocated over the next four years to pay for increased investigation of unsolved rape and murder cases. Convicted killers will be required to work and pay restitution into a victims’ compensation fund.

### **YES Prop 40: Referendum on Redistricting**

We strongly urge a “YES” vote on this referendum on the state Senate maps drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; it asks if you want to retain the new law, or in this case, the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. So vote YES to affirm the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, YES—in support of the Commission, YES—to validate the open, transparent process, YES—to retain fair districts.

### **NEUTRAL Proposition 38: Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs**

We are neutral on Our Children, Our Future, the measure supported by the California State PTA and activist Molly Munger. It provides significant funding for education and early childhood programs. In addition, for the first four years, this measure provides money to help the other underfunded government services. However, in the longer term, it earmarks essentially all the new money for education and early childhood programs. These programs definitely deserve to be adequately funded, but so do all of the government programs we support, from mental health programs to the court system to childcare.

### **NEUTRAL Proposition 39: Tax Treatment for Multistate Business**

This measure will close a tax loophole for multistate businesses, generating revenues of about \$1 billion per year—a good thing. However, it earmarks about half the new revenue for the first five years, so that portion can only be used for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects. We are neutral on this proposition because (*continued on p.4*)

(continued from p. 3) we believe new revenue for the state should be available for all of the programs funded by state revenue—schools, law enforcement, health care, jobs programs, and the judiciary.

## **NO POSITION**

The League has not studied the issues in the following measures, and so has **no recommendation on Proposition 33** (Auto Insurance Rates), **Proposition 35** (Human Trafficking), **Proposition 36** (Three Strikes Reform), and **Proposition 37** (Genetically Engineered Foods).  
*--from the League of Women Voters of California*

## **Neutral Pros and Cons on Countywide Measures A1 (Zoo), B1 (Transportation): LWV in Alameda County Neutral on Both**

The League of Women Voters is officially “neutral” on both Alameda County measures on the November 6 ballot. **Measure A1** is a countywide parcel tax to support the Oakland Zoo. **Measure B1** is a countywide transportation sales tax measure. (The LWV takes a neutral position on a measure if the measure meets the criteria of some of our policy positions but does not satisfy other equally important ones.) Here are the neutral Pros and Cons for the two countywide measures from the Alameda County Council (*Measure B1 appears first purely for space reasons. ed.*):

### **Pros and Cons: Alameda County Measure B1 Sales Tax**

#### **TRANSPORTATION SALES TAX FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY**

(Requires a 2/3 vote to pass.)

#### **The Question**

Should the voters of Alameda County approve a 1/2 - cent sales tax increase that will be extended in perpetuity to help fund transportation projects and programs in the county?

#### **The Way It Is Now**

In 1986 and 2000 Alameda County voters approved Measure B, a 1/2 - cent sales tax dedicated to transportation that is currently due to expire in 2022. The tax has funded improvements for transit, streets and roads, highways and freeways, and bicyclists and pedestrians. Funding from state and federal sources has since declined, and the economic downturn has reduced tax revenues. As a result, transit services have been cut, fares have increased, and roadway maintenance has been deferred.

#### **Fiscal Effects**

If this measure is approved, Alameda County voters would continue to pay the current ½ cent sales tax plus an additional 1/2 - cent tax. The resulting 1cent tax will raise almost \$7.8 billion for transportation purposes between 2013 and 2043.

#### **What this Measure Would Do**

More than three-fourths of the revenues would pay for improvements in three categories: transit, including paratransit; local streets and roads; and bicycle and pedestrian projects. Smaller amounts would go to freeways, transit-oriented development, freight transportation, and a student transit pass program. Updates to the spending plans will be submitted for voter approval by 2043 and every 20 years afterward.

#### **Supporters Say**

Transportation sales taxes are critical to maintaining and upgrading our transportation infrastructure and services. These needs will go on forever. An independent watchdog committee will monitor expenditures.

#### **Opponents Say**

Sales taxes are regressive because low-income households pay a larger share of their income in sales taxes than do higher-income households. The tax would be extended in perpetuity with no opportunity for voters to renew or end it.

**A Yes Vote means:** Alameda County taxpayers would pay an additional half-percent on all taxable purchases to fund transportation projects.

**A No Vote means:** No change in the current sales tax. It would expire in 2022.

## **Pros and Cons: Alameda County Measure A1 (Zoo Parcel Tax)** **OAKLAND ZOO HUMANE ANIMAL CARE/EDUCATION PROTECTION MEASURE**

Requires a 2/3 vote to pass.

### **The Way It Is Now**

The Oakland Zoo's funding comes mostly from entrance fees and sales of food and gifts. Almost 9% of the money comes from public support -- the City of Oakland and the East Bay Regional Park District. This is less than the 35% average level of public support for zoos nationwide.

The zoo has had support for capital improvements from a variety of tax measures (all bonds) over the years. Oakland has recently reduced its funding of the zoo significantly.

The zoo presents educational programs to students from all over Alameda County and the Bay Area.

### **What Proposition A1 Would Do**

A parcel tax would be added to property taxes in Alameda County: \$12 annually for residential parcels and \$72 for commercial. This tax would go on for 25 years and would raise about \$6 million annually. Proceeds would be used to repair existing facilities, for educational programs, and for animal care. Spending would be monitored by a public oversight committee.

### **Supporters Say**

The Oakland Zoo is an important public resource. Additional funding will allow the zoo to maintain affordable entrance fees and continue education programs.

### **Opponents Say**

The zoo already has multiple sources of public funds. We can't afford higher taxes.

*--Neutral Pros and Cons on Alameda County Measures A1 and B1 were developed by representatives of the Alameda County Council's member Leagues.*

## **LWVA Adopts Neutral Position on City of Alameda Measure D (Protect Our Parks)**

Alameda citizens have placed a City Charter amendment on the November ballot that would require a majority of City of Alameda voters to approve the sale, swap, or disposal of any portion of public city parks. Measure D, the Protect Our Alameda Parks Initiative, defines public parks as "any and all lands of the City which have been or will be designated by City Council for public park purposes and/or recreational uses....including the Alameda Golf Complex."

The complete initiative and other official Measure D ballot information are posted on the LWVC's Smart Voter site (<http://www.smartvoter.org/2012/11/06/ca/alm/meas/D/>). The ballot language and the proposed City Charter changes are also available at the Alameda County Registrar of Voters site. (Go to <http://www.acgov.org/rov/next.htm> and scroll down to the local measures to download the ROV's PDF.)

After long and thoughtful discussion at its September 30 meeting the LWVA Board voted to remain neutral on Measure D because LWVA positions can be cited to both support and oppose this proposed Alameda City Charter amendment.

*--Karen Butter, LWVA Action Chair*

### **Treasurer's Report – October 1, 2012**

Cash Flow Statement (October 1, 2012) prepared for LWVA October Board meeting:

Beginning cash balance	\$11,872.27	Total Assets	
Receipts	\$140.00	Cash	\$10,625.50
Expenditures	\$1,386.77	CD	\$10,000.00
Ending cash balance	<u>\$10,625.50</u>	<u>Total Assets</u>	<u>\$21,625.50</u>

*--Ted Frey, Treasurer*

## Award-Winning LWVC Smart Voter Site: Dependable Election Info



Smart Voter, the League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) election information web site, includes brief biographies of many local, state, and national candidates (including judicial candidates), along with the candidates' three top priorities, position papers, endorsements, and photos.

Visit the award-winning, nonpartisan Smart Voter web site at [www.smartvoter.org](http://www.smartvoter.org).

Voters can look up their unique ballot, from national, state, and local races to state and local ballot measures. All of this appears with just one click, along with her/his polling place. Directions to the polling place are just one more click away.

Smart Voter links to the LWVC's highly regarded Pros & Cons explanations of state ballot measures, as well as to candidate and initiative web sites, newspaper articles, and other election sites. Election results will also be available through Smart Voter, a user-friendly "one-stop shopping" web site for voters.

Smart Voter will reach more than 12 million California voters during this election cycle. The LWVC site received more than a million hits during the 2008 presidential election and Smart Voter anticipates many more than that this year. For more information, please contact Smart Voter Chair Juelle-Ann Boyer at [ALWVvoterservice@gmail.com](mailto:ALWVvoterservice@gmail.com).

*--Juelle-Ann Boyer, Smart Voter Chair*

### LWVA Studying Initiative and Referendum Reform—Presentation November 29

Eight members of the LWVA's local Initiative and Referendum Reform (I & RR) Study Group met September 19 to begin their work. The next I & RR Study Group meeting is Wednesday, November 14, at 7:00 pm, at Felice Zensius's home.

Professor Michael Salerno of the UC Hastings School of Law will speak on "The Initiative and Referendum Process in California" Thursday evening, November 29, as part of the LWVA's local study of Initiative and Referendum Reform (I & RR) issues in California. *(See p.2 for the related story on Professor Salerno's talk November 29. ed.)*

Felice Zensius (Chair), Kate Quick, Sally Faulhaber, Dorothy Fullerton, Miriam Schiffman, Ruth Dixon-Mueller, Anne Spanier, and Marilyn Ng (the group's recorder) attended the first local study group meeting September 19.

Members of the LWVA study group will work through the questions and positions in the state League's (LWVC's) initiative and referendum reform guide (links below). Like local League study groups statewide, the LWVA group will wrap up its work next spring. The Alameda group will coordinate with other Alameda County Leagues to cosponsor one or two general meetings—such as Professor Salerno's talk November 29—on initiative and referendum reforms.

For more statewide information on the I & RR process visit the LWVC I & RR page here:

<http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvonly/studies/2011-initiative-and-referendum/index.html>. A statewide members-only Yahoo Groups listserv is also available: <http://archive.lwvc.org/lwvc/listserve.html>.

For more information on the LWVA's I & R Reform study group or its next meeting please contact Study Chair Felice Zensius ([felicez@ymail.com](mailto:felicez@ymail.com); 510-865-4329).

*--Felice Zensius, I & RR Study Chair*

**\*\*\* REMINDERS \*\*\***

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## League Members Invited to The Alamedan's Election Eve Party

Michele Ellson has invited all members of the League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA)—as individuals—to The Alamedan's "nonpartisan" election eve party, 6-10 pm at the Blue Danube (formerly JavaRama) on Park Street at Alameda Avenue. The Alamedan is the island's well-known online news service. (*Ellson has also invited many other "Alameda political junkies."* ed.)

The Alamedan's web site (<http://www.thealamedan.org/election-events>) promises "Political gab, games, and more. Wine, coffee, and snacks (will be) available."

"So far the format is a nonpartisan mixer where people can chat and watch the returns together. Folks can offer their predictions, do trivia and we may have some live music," according to Ellson's invitation email. "If you wanted to send someone out to talk about the League, help us with election trivia, or be present in another capacity we'd love to have you. Either way, I wanted to invite your members to come."

Since this is not an official LWVA function, individual League members should RSVP directly and independently to Michele Ellson (<http://www.facebook.com/events/264279820341482>; [michele@thealamedan.org](mailto:michele@thealamedan.org)) at The Alamedan.

--Kate Quick, President, LWVA

## A Firefighter's Work, Equality, and League Dues

Today I have everything a woman living in a democracy could want. For starters, I have an incredible job as a firefighter. Yes, you heard that right. Like most young girls who yearned to be a firefighter, I was told that I could not do that. However, I had opportunities to achieve these goals because we live in a society that now values women.

I believe this comes directly from women being able to participate as full members of society and find places in the world of work that reflect their dreams and ambitions. These opportunities did not come easily: women had to work long and hard to gain full participation in society.

Carrie Chapman Cox, founder of the League of Women Voters, understood that when she joined forces with Alice Paul, Lucy Burns, and Irene Mull Holland to fight for the right to vote. Their action put women on the path to equality. We owe a great deal to these women who fought for suffrage and then founded The League of Women Voters to put the power of the vote into action.

Many countries have not given women the right to vote. Some women here in the USA do not understand the connection between their power and the right to vote. Women have equality in American education and in the work place because of the League's work in securing these rights and fostering a society that values all people.

I hope my young daughter will never have doors closed to her because she is a woman. For that I am grateful, and it is one of the reasons I support the League and want to carry on the legacy of those wonderful women. I fully understand what their sacrifices have done in my life and for the lives of our young daughters and granddaughters—yours and mine.

Please help the Alameda League's work to keep our government open and responsive to the needs of all of our citizens--men and women alike. Renew your 2013 LWVA membership before December 31, 2012. Your dues are now tax-deductible for the year in which you pay them.

--Gayle Thomas, Membership Chair

(NOTE: LWVA Membership Chair Gayle Thomas is a mom and a Fire Captain with the Alameda Fire Department. ed.)

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## **First Friday Social Dinner November 2 at La Penca Azul on Bay Farm Island**

*First Friday Social Dinners: A Different Local Restaurant Each Month at 6 P.M.*

Next month's LWVA First Friday Social Dinner will be November 2 at La Penca Azul in the Harbor Bay Landing Shopping Center on Bay Farm Island.

At these informal dinners, League members, spouses, and guests can gather around a meal and "just have a good time together." La Penca Azul is at 891-B Island Drive, next to LaVal's Pizza.

Dinner coordinator Connie Slattery-Hanna describes the dinners as having "No agenda, no rules...(just) a nice way to get together on a purely social basis."

About a dozen League members and their families have attended these dinners at different Alameda restaurants every month. Since the dinners are close to the VOTER deadline, please call Connie for the details. (The last First Friday dinner was at Speisekammer on October 5.)

Socializing begins over drinks at 6:00 pm. and dinner last until 7:30 or 8:00 pm. If you would like to come, please call Connie Slattery-Hanna at 995-8672 in advance for the location and to let her know how many people you are bringing. (Connie needs to provide an updated count to the restaurant even though reservations are made in advance.)

*--Connie Slattery-Hanna*

## **New Member Report for October 2012**

Jessi Bushey is the newest member of the League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA).

Please welcome her and our other new members at the LWVA's upcoming Friday Night Flights (October 19 and October 26) or our Mojito Monday on November 5. All three events take place from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Angela's Bistro and Bar, 2301 Central Avenue (at Oak Street).

Please add Jessi Bushey's contact information to your members' roster:

Jessi Bushey 510-329-2551 [jebu30@hotmail.com](mailto:jebu30@hotmail.com)

*--Gayle Thomas, Membership Chair*

## **Book Club Considers Liberian Peacemakers at Applebee's October 22 at 3:30 PM**

The Alameda League's Book Club has discussed almost 20 nonfiction books over the last two years, most of them about notable women and historic events. *Mighty Be Our Powers*, by Leymah Gbowee, is next up at 3:30 pm on Monday, October 22, at Applebee's Restaurant at South Shore Center. *Mighty Be Our Powers* (Beast Books, ISBN-13: 9780984295197) tells the story of the Liberian women who started a peace movement: they even withheld sex from men. Leynah Gbowee recently carried the torch at the Olympics.

So far this year about eight of us have read *King Leopold's Ghost*, *A Singular Woman*, *Incognito*, *The Defining Moment: Roosevelt's first 100 days*, *The Tipping Point*, *A Team of Rivals*, and *Galileo's Daughter*. Many of these books have been New York Times Bestsellers.

If you would like to join us or would like to contribute book suggestions please come to the October 22 meeting. Because several members have dropped out during the last six months we are considering other options. While the books have been thought provoking and the discussion animated, a critical mass is necessary for our discussions to remain lively.

*--Anne Spanier, Book Club*

## News on Housing from the Bay Area Monitor

Several news stories in the October 2012 *Bay Area Monitor* (<http://www.bayareamonitor.org/>) address issues facing Alameda. You can read individual articles or download the entire issue at the above link. Below is an adapted update on the Association of Bay Area Governments' (ABAG's) work on the plans for the next eight-year phase of the state-mandated Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) plans.

*(NOTE: Alameda's new Housing Element and multifamily housing zoning overlay were passed July 17, 2012, in order to comply with state housing requirements like the Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) and SB 375 and otherwise bring the City of Alameda into full compliance with state housing laws for the first time in two decades. More below .ed.)*

The entire *Bay Area Monitor* story by Vivien Kim Thorp (edited for length below) below may be found here: [http://www.bayareamonitor.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=322:number-crunch-housing-allocation-hot-potato-continues&catid=115:octobernovember-2012&Itemid=66](http://www.bayareamonitor.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=322:number-crunch-housing-allocation-hot-potato-continues&catid=115:octobernovember-2012&Itemid=66)

### Number Crunch: Housing Allocation 'Hot Potato' Continues

Since early 2011, the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) has been working on the plan that, beginning in 2014, will govern the next eight years of housing development throughout the region. The state-mandated Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA), still in the draft phase, will pick up where the current plan leaves off, determining how many housing units, including affordable housing, a community must plan to accommodate by 2022.

The newest RHNA will assign responsibility for 187,990 housing units around the Bay Area's nine counties. By state law, a RHNA must consider myriad factors—sewer and water service, protected lands, special community needs such as housing for university students or farm workers, and market demand—all while making the most of existing infrastructure.

Cities must, in good faith, provide zoning that adequately addresses the numbers. “The process is a delicate balance between where growth should go and how much growth each jurisdiction can accommodate,” said Hing Wong, a senior ABAG planner. “For this RHNA, the methodology is a lot more involved, and there are many more variables in terms of calculating how many units each jurisdiction gets.”

The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act (Senate Bill 375). Passed in 2008, SB 375 requires California's 18 regions to adopt Sustainable Communities Strategies—collaborative plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and lessen urban sprawl. Regional housing and transportation planning agencies are now required to work in tandem.

In the Bay Area, this means that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC's) 25-year regional transportation plan must correlate with the RHNA and vice-versa. “We're trying to do it in an iterative fashion,” said Doug Johnson, an MTC planner. “This means concentrating development efforts in places where more growth and the most transportation investment are expected.”

Since the draft RHNA was released in July, city planners, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders have played “hot potato” with the assigned numbers, requesting changes based on inadequate terrain, lack of subsidies, overrepresentation, and more. Wong allowed that cities rarely ask for more units. “They would prefer lower numbers, not because they don't want to meet this requirement, but they face many local challenges in trying to zone for their given allotment.”

Now in its revision phase, major changes to the RHNA are unlikely, though the appeals process, which ends in February, will bring small adjustments. As the draft stands, Alameda County (43,965) received the second-largest regional housing allocation in the nine-county region.

*--Vivien Kim Thorp*

*(For more information on the City of Alameda General Plan, Alameda's revised Housing Element, our share of RHNA allocations, and the multifamily housing zoning overlay, visit: <http://www.cityofalamedaca.gov/City-Hall/General-Plan> or contact the Community Development Department at <http://www.cityofalamedaca.gov/City-Hall/Community-Development> or 510-747-6850. ed.)*

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## Turn Trash into Cash for the LWVA Education 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.

## SAVE THE DATES

- 10/18 – Candidate Forum – 7:00 pm  
@ Mastick Senior Center (AUSD)
- 10/19 – Friday Night Flights – 5:30 pm  
@ Angela's Bistro & Bar
- 10/22 – Book Club – 3:30 pm  
@ Applebee's, South Shore Center
- 10/25 – Candidate Forum – 7:00 pm  
@ Mastick (AD 18, Hospital Bd)
- 10/26 – Friday Night Flights – 5:30 pm  
@ Angela's Bistro & Bar
- 11/02 – First Friday Social – 5:30 pm  
@ La Penca Azul, Harbor Bay  
Landing on Bay Farm Island
- 11/05 – Mojito Monday – 5:30 pm  
@ Angela's Bistro & Bar
- **11/06 – ELECTION DAY – VOTE!**
- 11/06 – Election Eve Party – 6:00 pm  
@ Blue Danube Coffee House
- 11/14 – I & RR Study Group – 7:00 pm  
Call Felice Zensius @ 865-4329.
- 11/15 – LWVA Board – 7:30 pm  
@ Alameda Hospital (Conf. Room)
- 11/29 – Hastings Law Prof. Salerno on  
Initiative & Referendum Reform –  
Details TBA.

The League of Women Voters  
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