

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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SMART VOTER

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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.



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VOTER

Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation

Announcement from Alameda Point Vision Group:

The League of Women Voters of Alameda has not formally partnered with Alameda Point Vision, but this group does share our basic goals and values with respect to development and transportation. Interested League members may wish to attend these meetings and share our position to insure that the consensus the group forwards reflects our views. We are sharing their meeting announcement, with no endorsement of the group.

The Alameda Point process is moving forward rapidly, and the current developer, SunCal, is required to submit a master plan to the City Council in mid-December.

On October 23rd, there will be a **community meeting** at City hall (rm 360) from 6:30-7:30pm to discuss the vision, talk about the current plans for the Point and layout steps for getting what the community wants to see as the Alameda Point development process moves forward.

Speakers will include Laura Hall, who will facilitate the meeting and give a presentation on community-involved planning and sustainable design, and Alamedan David Burton, who will present the overall vision and help us move forward with next steps.

Alamedans lead busy lives, attending all meetings about Alameda Point is not only difficult, it's nearly impossible. By coming together on a consensus plan, we can speak as a community for a specific vision and share the burden by dividing up the meetings, letter writing and phone calls that will be needed in the coming weeks.

Alameda Point Vision:

The Alameda Point Vision supports planning that ensures a high quality of life for current and future residents of our community. We envision Alameda Point becoming a socially and economically diverse, environmentally friendly part of our city complete with increased park land, jobs, housing choices, community centers, libraries and schools. Well-planned development at Alameda Point must promote a variety of transportation choices, a balance of jobs and housing, and neighborhood design that combines historic preservation with long-term livability. It will build upon the qualities which make Alameda a desirable place to live, including recreational, cultural, educational, residential and employment opportunities for the enhancement of the entire City of Alameda and its citizens. To achieve these goals, the City and developers must:

- Provide a Wide-Range of Community Open Space
- Minimize the Impact of Traffic on Alameda's Current and Future Residents
- Invest in Effective and Cost-Efficient Transportation
- Create a Variety of Commercial Services
- Provide Diverse Housing
- Create a Model of Sustainability
- Create Walkable Neighborhoods
- Emulate the Layout of Alameda's Traditional Neighborhoods
- Center Neighborhoods on Small Transit Stations
- Preserve Our History



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Kate Quick, President, League of Women Voters of Alameda

If you read my message in last month's VOTER you heard my analogy about our election work being like our running a race. Well, now all the preparation is paying off and we are off to a smooth start, having overcome some obstacles along the way. The sports psychologists always seem to recommend that the athlete do a lot of mental preparation prior to the event, including playing it through in his/her head until he has the vision of the excellent performance down to a "given." This helps to overcome the inevitable obstacles, as they have been mentally dealt with and overcome before the race even happens. In our case, we had late arrival of election materials, finding of venues and assistance for our public forums, and finding enough presenters for our myriad pros and cons on the November 4th ballot.

And guess what? We overcame all of these and all the prep work got done on time! So we are off and around the first turn as of this writing. Our first public Pros and Cons forum at Temple Israel was very well attended, and all the presenters knew their "stuff" and presented well. Thanks go to the wonderful Sisterhood at the Temple who provided great treats for the attendees, and to our presenters, Karen Butter, Dorothy Fullerton, and Felice Zensius. I wasn't there, but I heard that the first School Board candidate's night went well too. Our thanks go to the most able Juelle Ann Boyer for moderating and to Dorothy Fullerton, our timer, and question sorters Karen Scanlon and Li Volin, and pages, Earleen Hamlin and P. Wong. Tomorrow, we will be doing pros and cons for the Rotary, always a big group, and then on to our first of the candidate's nights for City Council. And it will go like that for the next three weeks. By the time you get this VOTER, we will have finished the race and will be resting on our laurels.

Or so we think. Because after our election work is done, we will be getting back down to our program. The Health Care Committee, chaired by Shubha Fanse, is planning a speaker for the early spring, and we will have some work to do to prepare ourselves for the State Convention coming up in May. We have heard that the LWVC is coming up with some new directions for program which we will be hearing about in detail soon and we'll have to work out how we will respond to their proposals. I'll be sure to share them with all of you when we know what they are. I hope they will be great!

I want to wish you all a very happy Thanksgiving. I think we have a lot to be thankful for, not the least of all our wonderful League and the good work we are able to do and the great friendships we have been able to forge. Personally, I am thankful for every one of you, and for the time, talent and treasure you so generously give to our community. Makes being the President of this outfit a pretty easy job! Don't forget our Holiday Party on December 19th. It is always a fun event. I'll be traveling in Europe from November 29 until December 16th and plan to find us some great door prizes and raffle items at the Christmas Markets along the Rhine and in Brussels and Bruges, so come and enjoy!

-Kate

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area and The Bay Area Air Quality Management District Invite you to attend:

Public Health and Particulates

SAVE THE DATE: Tuesday Dec. 2nd Preservation Park's Nile Hall in Downtown Oakland
9 am Registration and Breakfast 9:15 am - noon – Forum

NO CHARGE

A public health issue of growing concern: is particulate air pollution, which scientific study has linked to asthma and other serious respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Medical and scientific professionals will discuss these public health impacts and communications experts will explain how local Leagues and other concerned organizations can help increase public awareness on this issue

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) has been a long time supporter of our *Bay Area Monitor*. They have asked us to co-sponsor a forum to reach Bay Area decision makers and League members about Public Health and Particulates. The timing of this forum coincides with the start of wood burning season. The BAAQMD is hoping that we can help clear up some of misinformation about the new regulations on wood burning. Please plan to attend.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS RECOMMENDS for your State Propositions

Consult your Pros and Cons sent with the October Voter for specific on the propositions

YES ON PROPOSITION 1A -- Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act

YES ON PROPOSITION 3 -- Children’s Hospital Bond Act

NO ON PROPOSITION 4 -- Waiting Period and Parental Notification before Termination of Minor’s Pregnancy

YES ON PROPOSITION 5 -- Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and Rehabilitation

NO ON PROPOSITION 6 -- Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties and Laws (Runner Initiative)

NO ON PROPOSITION 7 -- Renewable Energy Generation

NO ON PROPOSITION 8 -- Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry

NO ON PROPOSITION 9 -- Criminal Justice System. Victims’ Rights. Parole

NO ON PROPOSITION 10 -- Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable Energy. Bonds

YES ON PROPOSITION 11 -- Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST Act

Because League positions do not cover the issues in **Proposition 2**, Standards for Confining Farm Animals, and **Proposition 12**, Veterans’ Bond Act of 2008, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF ALAMEDA RECOMMENDS

YES VOTE OF CITY OF ALAMEDA MEASURES P THROUGH X

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA RECOMMENDS

YES ON MEASURE VV – AC TRANSIT PARCEL TAX MEASURE

YES ON MEASURE WW - EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK BOND MEASURE

REQUEST FOR REGIONAL MEETING MONITORS

Earn Funding for Your Local League

The LWVBA Education Fund offers local Leagues \$25 a month to observe the board meetings of regional agencies (whose jurisdiction spans more than one of the nine Bay Area counties). Observers are asked to collect agency handouts and write very brief reports. These materials alert the editor of the LWVBA's bimonthly *Bay Area Monitor* newsletter about possible articles for upcoming issues.

Currently, observers for the following agencies would be especially appreciated (although some of these agencies meet more than once a month, observers need only attend one meeting to receive the \$25 for their League):

- **AC Transit** (meets the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 5 p.m. at 1600 Franklin St. in Oakland)
- **Bay Area Air Quality Management District** (meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 9:45 a.m. at 939 Ellis St. in San Francisco)
- **Caltrain** (meets the first Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. at 1250 San Carlos Ave. in San Carlos)
- **East Bay Municipal Utility District** (meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 1:15 p.m. at 375 11th St. in Oakland)
- **Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District** (meets on the second and fourth Friday of the month at 10 a.m. in the administration building of the Golden Gate Bridge Toll Plaza in San Francisco)
- **Metropolitan Transportation Commission** (meets on the final Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. at 101 Eighth St. in Oakland)

Additionally, if there is a regional agency in your area that you think might be worthwhile to observe, we would be interested to know about it. Please contact Alec MacDonald at (510) 839-1608 or editor@bayareamonitor.org for more information.

V.A. to Allow Voter Signup for Veterans at Facilities

By [IAN URBINA](#)

WASHINGTON — The [Department of Veterans Affairs](#) said Monday that it would no longer ban voter registration drives among veterans living at federally run nursing homes, shelters for the homeless and rehabilitation centers across the country.

In May, the department said such drives would violate the prohibition on political activity by federal employees and would be disruptive.

The reversal came after months of pressure from state election officials, voting rights groups and federal lawmakers who said that such drives made it easier for veterans to take part in the political process.

Veterans' participation could be particularly important this year in a presidential election in which the handling of the Iraq war and treatment of veterans will be major campaign issues.

"V.A. has always been committed to helping veterans exercise their constitutional right to vote, which they defended for all Americans while serving their nation," said Dr. [James B. Peake](#), secretary of veterans affairs. "We've now established a uniform approach to helping those of our patients who need assistance to register and to vote."

Veterans officials said that they would welcome state and local election officials and nonpartisan groups to hospitals and outpatient clinics to help register voters but that such assistance needed to be coordinated by those facilities in order to avoid disruptions to patient care.



November Board Meeting –
Thursday, 11/20/08 7:30 pm
Conference Room C – Alameda
Hospital

Save the Date
Friday – December 19th
LWV of Alameda
Annual Holiday Party!



Voting in Early America

by Ed Crews

..... In practice, moreover, relatively few of the nation's inhabitants were able to participate in elections: among the excluded were most African Americans, Native Americans, women, men who had not attained their majority, and white males who did not own land.

John Adams, signer of the Declaration of Independence and later president, wrote in 1776 that no good could come from enfranchising more Americans:

Depend upon it, Sir, it is dangerous to open so fruitful a source of controversy and altercation as would be opened by attempting to alter the qualifications of voters; there will be no end to it. New claims will arise; women will demand the vote; lads from 12 to 21 will think their rights not enough attended to; and every man who has not a farthing, will demand an equal voice with any other, in all acts of state. It tends to confound and destroy all distinctions, and prostrate all ranks to one common level.

Colonial Voting restrictions reflected eighteenth-century English notions about gender, race, prudence, and financial success, as well as vested interest. Arguments for a white, male-only electorate focused on what the men of the era conceived of as the delicate nature of women and their inability to deal with the coarse realities of politics, as well as convictions about race and religion. African Americans and Native Americans were excluded, and, at different times and places, the Protestant majority denied the vote to Catholics and Jews. In some places, propertied women, free blacks, and Native Americans could vote, but those exceptions were just that. They were not signs of a popular belief in universal suffrage.

Property requirements were widespread. Some colonies required a voter to own a certain amount of land or land of a specified value. Others required personal property of a certain value, or payment of a certain amount of taxes. Examples from 1763 show the variety of these requirements. Delaware expected voters to own fifty acres of land or property worth £40. Rhode Island set the limit at land valued

at £40 or worth an annual rent of £2. Connecticut required land worth an annual rent of £2 or livestock worth £40.

Such requirements tended to delay a male colonist's entry into the voter ranks until he was settled down and established. They reflected the belief that freeholders, as property owners were called, had a legitimate interest in a community's success and well-being, paid taxes and deserved a voice in public affairs, had demonstrated they were energetic and intelligent enough to be trusted with a role in governance, and had enough resources to be independent thinkers not beholden to the wealthiest class. English jurist William Blackstone wrote in the 1700s:

The true reason of requiring any qualification, with regard to property, in voters, is to exclude such persons as are in so mean a situation that they are esteemed to have no will of their own. If these persons had votes, they would be tempted to dispose of them under some undue influence or other. This would give a great, an artful, or a wealthy man, a larger share in elections than is consistent with general liberty.

Colonies also restricted opportunities to serve in their legislatures. Immediately before the Revolution, five insisted on significant property requirements for officeholders. But candidates tended to be wealthy anyway.

IT'S TIME TO PAY YOUR 2009 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Use the enclosed card and envelope to submit your dues to the League of Women Voters of Alameda, P.O. Box 1645 Alameda, CA. 94501. Make your check payable to: LWV-Alameda

Individual Annual Dues	\$65.00
Household (2 or 2+) Dues	\$85.00
Student Annual Dues	\$25.00

Scholarships are available. Contact Shubha Fpanse at shubhaf@aol.com

Already renewed? Use your card to recruit a friend or neighbor. We hope you continue your membership and also invite your friends to join.

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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