



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol. 51 No. 7 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* September 2008

The Eden Area League of Women Voters
Invites you to attend a luncheon forum on:

The Pros and Cons of the 11 State Propositions

- How does Redistricting effect the political process—and me?
- Why are there some propositions that we have already voted on before?
- How can I tell who is really behind these propositions?

The League is known for giving voters the pros and cons on state propositions to make sure voters know what they are voting on. Sometimes the proposition language is confusing -- no means yes and yes could mean no. This forum will help.

DATE: Friday, September 26, 2008

TIME: Noon to 2 p.m.

PLACE: San Lorenzo Village Homes Association
Community Hall
377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo
(one block from Hesperian Blvd.)

**LUNCHEON
COST:** \$15

Please RSVP to Marianne Dimick at 581-9326 (eve) or email to

maddk9@dimicklaw.net by Monday, September 22.

See the RSVP form on the last page to mail in your reservation and check.

President's Report

By Marianne Dimick, Acting President

It's an exciting time to be active in the League. We have much work to be done on the fall election. With four new board members, the enthusiasm is flowing. At our board retreat in July we set the calendar for the upcoming year and began planning our programs.

The September program will focus on the state propositions and local issues. Redistricting, Proposition 11, is the hot issue and something that LWV California strongly supports. In January we will focus on healthcare issues.

As we are actively recruiting volunteers to help register voters, assist at candidate forums and do Pros and Cons presentations, this is your chance to step up and get involved. Easy Voter Guides and the State's Pros and Cons booklets will arrive at the end of September. Our Voter Services team will need help to get them all distributed.

The League never supports or opposes any candidates or political party. Nor do we ever deliberately shape our education or action/advocacy on issues to benefit a candidate or political policy. We work to influence policy through education and advocacy. Priorities for Advocacy from our state convention for this biennium are health care, education and redistricting. Advocacy on these issues comes from the positions adopted in response to the Legislature's agenda and the League's interest.

These same issues, health care, education and redistricting, were also chosen for community education through the League's Education Fund. This is the non-profit arm of the league that conducts our voter services and citizen education activities.

I look forward to meeting all of our members throughout the year. I encourage you to get involved and work for a better future.

BOARD BRIEFS, August 9, 2008

- Heard a presentation by Michael Gregory, San Leandro City Councilmember and League member, on the AC Transit East Bay Bus Rapid Transit project which would run from Hayward to Berkeley.
- Received Treasurer's report and status of the State PMP (membership dues paid to state) issue.
- Appointed Connie Rusk as Communications Director and asked that she also assist in editing the LWVEA VOTER.
- Approved holding an election by the membership to confirm Marianne Dimick as President and Angelina Reyes as Secretary to fill both positions on the Board which are now vacant.
- Appointed Gail Lundholm to attend the Interleague meeting that are generally held in Berkeley.
- Approved Treasurer Pat Piras arranging for year-end accounting for audit.
- Noted that we need to recruit more help to register voters and to update our affidavit box and registration form process as soon as possible.
- Recommended that the By-laws Update Committee plan to meet to complete work on updating LWVEA Bylaws.
- Received report from VP Program Marian Handa concerning September 26th luncheon featuring the pros and cons of the state propositions.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We need members to staff a voter registration table at Chabot College (there are other agencies helping, too). The goal is to register 1000 students before Oct. 20th. Please call Marianne Dimick to volunteer.

SKYBOX RAFFLE WINNER

Karen Jonke, owner of Krayons in Castro Valley, is the lucky lady. Thanks to Alice Lai-Bitker for donating the prize and Roberta Rivet, Executive Director of the Castro Valley Chamber of Commerce, for drawing the winning ticket.

GLOBAL WARMING

Many Leagues have started Action Groups on Global Warming. Our Board will be considering that as well so if you would be interested in this important issue and would like to join, please contact Marianne Dimick at maddk9@dimicklaw.net.

EASY VOTER GUIDES

The Leagues famous Easy Voter Guide and the Pros and Cons on State Propositions will be available soon. We usually order thousands of these publications and distribute them to schools, libraries, senior centers and to other organizations.

We need help in doing this distribution. If you can spare an hour or two to make these distributions in your neighborhood, please contact Helen Oertle at helenoertle@aol.com.

SAD NEWS

A long-time League member has passed away. **Dorothy Buckley**, a League member for 34 years, died in early July. She served as president of our Eden Area League from 1994-1996. Dorothy was a kind and gracious lady who was always willing to help on the many League programs in which we were involved. Our sympathy goes to her family and friends.



Alameda County Needs Your Help!! Become A Poll Worker!! for the November 4, 2008, General Election. Poll Workers are the backbone of our election system. It's an enjoyable and rewarding way to be part of our free democratic process. Let them know you are a Leaguer. Call **510-272-6971**.

DUES ARE DUE

To date, only 79 members have renewed their membership out of our current 145. We have kept our dues low as an incentive for renewal.

However, the real incentive is that your dues support the League at the National, State and Regional levels to do their important work of educating the public and influencing policy decision-makers.

There is a membership renewal form included with this VOTER and online at www.LWVEA.org. Please use the form as the information asked for helps maintain our database in alignment with National.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS CELEBRATES CONSTITUTION DAY

Civic Engagement Crucial for a Healthy Democracy

Washington, DC – This September 17 marks the 221st anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. In this landmark election year, the League of Women Voters is working nationwide to highlight the significance of our democratic process and reaching out to voters in an effort to encourage a better common understanding of the Constitution and the rights it ensures us.

“Constitution Day marks an important opportunity for us to reflect upon the foundations we still rely on today,” said national League president Mary G. Wilson. “In a year of unprecedented civic energy, it is especially critical for us to all realize why our constitutional rights are so important.”

NEW LWVEA OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2008-09

The following officers and directors were elected at the LWVEA Annual Meeting held May 31, 2008 or appointed at the August 13 Board meeting.

Feel free to contact any of them for further information about LWVEA or if you are interested in serving on one of the many issue committees.

Board Assistant/Acting President
Marianne Dimick**
maddk9@dimicklaw.net

Vice President-Program
Marian Handa
mhanda@ci.sanleandro.ca.us

Vice President-Membership
Jo Murdach
allisonandjo@hotmail.com

Secretary
Angie Reyes**
Angelina.Reyes@Hayward-ca.gov

Treasurer
Pat Piras
piras@ix.netcom.com

Social Policy Director
Beverly Reliford
reliford@aol.com

Voter Services Director
Helen Oertle
helenoertle@aol.com

VoterAffidavid Box Director
Allison Lewis
aslewis1215@yahoo.com

VOTER Editor
Connie Rusk***
concon05@comcast.net

Director at Large
Gail Lundholm
gala05@peoplepc.com

Director at Large
Winnie Thompson
winigerry@aol.com

Historian
Julie Quayle
juliequayle@sbcglobal.net

- To be confirmed at membership meeting on September 26.
- Appointed at the August 13 Board meeting.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU HELP NEEDED

We are beginning to receive requests from various groups to do presentations on the Pros and Cons of the eleven State Propositions. We would like to get more members involved instead of relying on just a few of the same people who have been doing it for us for many years.

We offer speaker training which will only take an hour and materials from the Pros and Cons on which you will be speaking.

Since there are eleven propositions, we will send out teams of two to do these presentations so that you will only be responsible for doing homework on half of the propositions.

The State League also provides a booklet called In-Depth which you may also have in order to answer any questions not covered in the Pros and Cons.

This service is one of the most important that the League provides to the public. Those who invite us are genuinely interested in becoming informed voters and take the time to listen to both sides of issues before they make up their mind how to vote.

If you are interested in being a speaker and taking the training, contact Beverly Reliford at reliford@adol.com. or Suzanne Barba at 538-9678.

Don't delay—contact us today!

What's Happening with "No Child Left Behind?"



Find out at the Hayward Public Library, 835 C Street, on Monday, Oct. 6 when Sheila Jordan, County Superintendent of Schools, will lead a discussion on the federal law from 6-8 p.m.

Other speakers are Prof Jeanette Bicais, CSUEB and teachers Barbara Schmidt and Diana Velez who will talk about how the law is practiced in the classroom.

The free event is co-sponsored by the League and AAUW. For further information contact Evelyn Gertler at 538-0122.

ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY IN CALIFORNIA: Critical Resistance 10 Panel

The Leagues of Women Voters of Alameda County are members of the Alameda County Coalition for Alternatives to the Death Penalty which is working to end death sentences in the county.

The Coalition will have a public presence at the Critical Resistance 10 meeting in Oakland. Critical Resistance's mission is Strategy & Struggle to Abolish the Prison Industrial Complex. On Saturday, September 27, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. a panel, Strategies for Ending the Death Penalty in California will feature five well known experts on the subject.

If you wish to attend the conference which is free, register at Laney College in Oakland. For more information see <http://www.criticalresistance.org/article.php?list=type&type=36>

--Marion Taylor, League representative to Coalition

CLEAN MONEY BILL PASSES SENATE

I'm very pleased to let you know that the Clean Money Elections bill, AB 583, has now passed the Senate and Assembly and is heading to the Governor's desk for signing--we hope.

You can help this bill (which provides for public funding of elections) by asking your local league members to contact Governor Schwarzenegger's office and ask him to sign AB 583. His contact info is:

- www.govmail.ca.gov
- 916 445 2841
- fax: 916 445 4633

It's CRUCIAL that the governor get a lot of input from grassroots voters to make him sure that we care about public funding. Please contact him now!

Thanks for your continuing support of this important reform.

Judy Cox
ACC Clean Money Chairperson

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Wednesday, Sept 10 6-8:00PM	LWVEA Monthly Board Meeting	Nate Miley's office Redwood Rd
Friday Sept 26 Noon-2PM	Pros and Cons Forum	377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo
Monday, Oct 6 6-8:00PM	No Child Left Behind	Hayward Public Library



For Voter Info
go to:

Smartvoter.org



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

RECOMMENDS

NOVEMBER 4, 2008 GENERAL ELECTION

PROP 1A Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act SUPPORT

This \$9.95 billion bond act would partially fund a high-speed train project between Los Angeles/Anaheim and San Francisco, and possible extensions to Sacramento and to San Diego, at a total project cost of \$45 billion, including the additional segments. Federal grants and public-private partnerships would be needed to fund at least half of each segment. Proposition 1A would provide a transportation option that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and lessens the need to expand highways and airports. This revised proposition addresses concerns about cost and financial uncertainties by requiring a new business plan, peer review, and other accountability provisions, and it allows bond funds to be used for the other segments if there is no negative impact on the first phase.

PROP 3 Children's Hospital Bond Act SUPPORT

Proposition 3 authorizes \$980 million in bonds to fund children's hospitals. These regional centers provide specialized care for children with serious illnesses or injuries without regard to a family's ability to pay. They treat the majority of California's low-income children. Eighty percent of the proceeds would go to eight nonprofit children's hospitals and 20 percent to University of California children's hospitals. Prop 3 will address escalating construction costs and improve health care access for children who are indigent, uninsured, underinsured or eligible for government health programs.

PROP 4 Waiting Period and Parental Notification before OPPOSE
Termination of Minor's Pregnancy

Prop 4 requires a physician to notify the parent of a pregnant minor before performing an abortion. Mandatory notification laws may sound good but, in the real world, they put the health and safety of teens in danger. A frightened, pregnant teen who can't go to her parents may choose an unsafe, illegal abortion, or even contemplate suicide, instead of seeking the counseling and safe medical care she needs. Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, but good family communication can't be imposed by government. California voters have rejected this proposal twice, but proponents have put it on the ballot again, adding more unreasonable provisions.

PROP 5 Nonviolent Drug Offenses. Sentencing, Parole and SUPPORT
Rehabilitation

Proposition 5 would require the state to expand treatment and rehabilitation for nonviolent drug offenders and parolees, and reduce the criminal consequences of nonviolent offenses. Additional costs of treatment would be offset by reductions in prison and parole operating costs, as well as in the need for capital outlay for prison facilities. The League's study of juvenile justice affirmed the need to give funding priority to prevention, early intervention and rehabilitation.

PROP 6 Police and Law Enforcement Funding. Criminal Penalties OPPOSE
and Laws (Runner Initiative)

This measure requires that nearly \$1 billion annually in state general funds be used for designated local law enforcement and probation programs. This will mean an increase of \$500 million a year for these programs and for operating prison and parole systems, and a \$500 million capital outlay for prison facilities. The League opposes the further restriction on the ongoing use of general funds. Harmful policy changes in this initiative include prosecuting more 14-year-olds as adults and giving counties less flexibility in the use of drug and mental health funds for juveniles.

PROP 7 Renewable Energy Generation**OPPOSE**

Proposition 7 requires all utilities, including government-owned utilities, to generate 50 percent of their power from renewable energy by 2025. While the League supports a renewable energy target, we feel this is too optimistic to be achieved, and well beyond the targets for implementing the landmark greenhouse-gas emissions reduction law, AB 32. Moreover, Prop 7 is poorly drafted. Experts say it will not achieve its stated goals and will actually disrupt the development of renewable power. It may force small renewable energy companies out of California's market and cause higher energy bills.

PROP 8 Eliminates Right of Same-Sex Couples to Marry**OPPOSE**

This proposed limitation of marriage as only between a man and a woman infringes on the equal rights that should be available to all people. The California Supreme Court has concluded that there is a "fundamental constitutional right to form a family relationship." The League opposed Proposition 22 in 2000 and continues to oppose such limits on the basic civil rights that should be guaranteed to all Californians.

PROP 9 Criminal Justice System. Victims' Rights. Parole**OPPOSE**

Proposition 9 would expand the legal rights of crime victims in various ways and could undo many of the rights of prisoners and parolees to due process and speedy parole revocation hearings. This initiative asks voters to support victims' rights that are already protected under state law and is unnecessary.

**PROP 10 Alternative Fuel Vehicles and Renewable
Energy. Bonds****OPPOSE**

This measure would authorize the sale of \$5 billion in general obligation bonds to provide rebates to purchasers of certain high fuel economy and alternative fuel vehicles, and to fund grants and other incentives for technology development. The League favors the use of bonds to finance capital expenditures or the purchase of property for public purposes. The purposes of this bond are not an appropriate use for state-issued, bond-generated revenues.

**PROP 11 Redistricting Reform: California Voters FIRST
Act****STRONG SUPPORT**

It is an inherent conflict of interest for legislators to draw their own districts to guarantee their reelection. Proposition 11 removes from the legislature the power to redraw district boundaries for the State Senate, Assembly and Board of Equalization after each census. Instead, it provides for the appointment of a 14-member independent citizens commission to perform this process, establishes clear criteria for how the boundaries shall be drawn, and requires an open and transparent process with due notice, public hearings, and no communications outside of the hearings. This measure will hold politicians accountable and help stop the gridlock in Sacramento that keeps pressing issues from being addressed.

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.

9/1/08

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 4!

League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678

Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro
and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
Cherryland, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and San Lorenzo

IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:
League of Women Voters of Eden Area
Treasurer, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Dues: Regular \$50 Same Household \$25, Student \$20

The League of Women Voters, a
nonpartisan political organization,
encourages the informed and active
participation of citizens in government
and influences public policy through
education and advocacy.

RESERVATION FORM FOR LUNCHEON FORUM SEPTEMBER 26, NOON TO 2 P.M.

____ Yes, I plan to attend.

____ Yes, I plan to attend and bring _____ guests with me.

____ Yes, I plan to attend but only for the program, no lunch.

____ No, I can't attend, but please accept my donation to the League.

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Name Guest(s) _____

Luncheon Cost is \$15 per person. \$ _____

Here is my tax deductible donation to the League Education Fund: \$ _____

**Please return this form to Treasurer, LWVEA, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546.
Deadline for reservations is Monday, September 22. Questions? 581-9326 (eve)**

Please visit our website for up-to-date event information - www.lwvea.org