

Meaning of League Membership
Guide to League Positions



League of Women Voters

Eden Area

P.O. Box 2234

Castro Valley, CA 94546

Phone (510) 826-6674

Email:

lwveapresident@gmail.com

Website: <https://www.lwvea.org>

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WELCOME

A warm welcome from the League of Women Voters of Eden Area! This handbook was created to orient you to the League. It is intended as a reference to be consulted whenever questions arise.

The League of Women Voters (LWV) is a national organization divided into independent but affiliated national, state, county and local levels. Founded in 1920 at the culmination of a 72-year struggle to gain women's suffrage, the League took as its first charge helping to educate 20 million women on how to exercise their new political rights and responsibilities.

The League is different from many organizations in that what it accomplishes comes directly from the involvement of its members. It is a grassroots organization providing every member with opportunities to learn and educate others about government and take action on public policy. League members meet to discuss topics in a **non-partisan** setting. They learn effective techniques for public discussion and how to advocate on specific policies. Our study and consensus process ensures that we are fully informed on issues before we take a stand. This approach has earned the League a national reputation for integrity and thoroughness.

Your participation in the League will expose you to a breadth of experiences and issues that will not only inform you, but create greater possibilities for civic engagement than you might imagine. You can spend as much or as little time as you wish. Whether you aspire to leadership or are keen to follow the lead of experienced members, the League will excite, use and nurture your civic curiosity, ideals and/or desire for action.

To keep you informed as a member, you will receive the local *VOTER* newsletter. You may also wish to receive monthly newsletters and action alerts from the National and the State Leagues.

We may not have thought of everything in this handbook, so please contact the Membership Chair with your questions. If she or he doesn't know the answer, you will be put in touch with a member who does know.



PURPOSE

The League of Women Voters is a unique, multi-issue, activist network that derives its strength from the energy and commitment of more than a hundred thousand members and supporters nationwide. **The League does not support candidates or parties.** The League does encourage the informed and active participation of the public in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League is a force in public policy because its positions are based on sound, informed work at the grassroots level.

Although programs and priorities have changed over the years, the League has remained true to its basic purposes which are:

- to establish positions on public policy issues through member study and agreement (consensus)
- to take concerted action that secures public policies consistent with League positions (advocacy)
- to offer voter services to enhance citizen participation in federal, state, county and local government decisions and to educate the electorate in the election process

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The League of Women Voters believes in representative government and in the individual liberties established in the Constitution of the United States.

The League of Women Voters believes that good democratic government depends upon the informed and active participation of its citizens.

The League of Women Voters believes that the right to vote must be protected for every citizen; that every person should have access to free public education which provides equal opportunity for all; and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination.

The League of Women Voters believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, clear assignment of responsibility, adequate financing and coordination among the different agencies and levels of government.

The League of Women Voters believes that government should be responsive to the will of the people. Government should maintain an equitable and flexible system of taxation, promote the conservation and development of natural resources in the public interest, share in the solution of economic and social problems which affect the general welfare, promote a stable and expanding economy and adopt domestic policies which facilitate the solution of international problems.

The League of Women Voters believes that cooperation with other nations is essential in the search for solutions to the world's problems and the development of international law is imperative in the promotion of world peace.



NON-PARTISAN POLICY

Leagues do not endorse or support candidates for public office nor do they support political parties. They do, however, take action on specific issues once the following has occurred:

- the issue has been thoroughly researched and studied
- a consensus of the membership on the issue is achieved
- the position is later adopted at the annual convention

To protect the League's non-partisan policy, Board members agree not to run for or hold political office. Additionally, the President, the Voter Service Chair and the Local Action Chair may not take an active, visible role in a campaign for a political candidate nor for a non-League issue.

EDUCATION V. ADVOCACY

STUDIES AND POSITIONS

“Program” in the League of Women Voters is the agenda of public policy issues that will receive the League’s focused attention for a period of time. First, members decide which issues should be emphasized for a one- or two-year “program” period. The issues may be new to the League’s process of study and position adoption or they may include old positions which need revision, deletion, re-study or more vigorous action.

Members’ recommendations go to the Board of Directors, who shape and adopt a slate of issues for concerted emphasis by the members to be voted upon at the Annual Membership Meeting. This slate of issues for emphasis (“program”) becomes the compass for League work which can involve research, establishing consensus, taking a position, presenting information and/or many forms of advocacy.



Education--Studies: The League does, however, educate its membership on issues after careful study. Studies customarily occur as follows: When the League’s members have decided which issue to study locally, a committee of members is formed and a chair of the committee is named. The study group then meets and thoroughly researches contextual materials on the issue and they may also interview content experts, participate in governmental hearings and/or attend informational conferences. The results of the study are presented to the members in the form of a report for discussion and consensus on what position members decide the League should take, if any.

Education--Positions: Positions at each League level are established after members have studied issues of significance and achieved agreement on policies and practices that would best serve the public interest. Positions are periodically reviewed for current relevance. Without study and consensus on a given issue, the League has no position and takes no stand (action/advocacy).

Advocacy--Action: When a position is taken, the League works to translate the position into reality through the political process. Action may take the form of lobbying, coalition building, speaking out, publishing materials, testifying and/or monitoring governmental activity. Although the League is a Non-Partisan Organization and does not support or oppose any political party or any candidate, it does, however, take action on selected issues once they have been through the rigorous process of attaining status as a League position. It is important to understand that speakers and contextual publications supporting a position that the League has taken after careful study are not the same speakers and publications which the League uses to disseminate impartial information to voters as a service to help them make informed decisions.



The Board of Directors decides the timing of actions as well as the kind and degree of action the League will undertake. Often this will take the form of a “Call to Action” which notifies members that it is a particularly opportune time to express their opinions to representatives on issues affecting a position.

LEAGUE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

LWVUS

The national League is called the **League of Women Voters - United States**. It focuses on national policies and positions like Social Security and the United Nations.

LWVC

The state League is called the **League of Women Voters - California**. It focuses on statewide issues, policies and positions like redistricting and education.

LWVBA

The **League of Women Voters - Bay Area** focuses on region-wide issues such as the housing, waste management and transportation.

LWVACC

The **League of Women Voters - Alameda County** focuses on issues that impact the Leagues situated in Alameda County like county-wide programs.

LWVEA

The **League of Women Voters - Eden Area** focuses on issues impacting the communities in the Eden Area which are: Hayward, Castro Valley, San Leandro, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Fairview and Cherryland.

One of the reasons why the League of Women Voters has been so successful is that it effectively utilizes both a “top-down” and “bottom-up” structure, meaning that although each of the Leagues operates independently, they request input on issues from the other Leagues. In this way, decisions are not made in isolation...those who may become impacted by the final decision have input. Once the final decision has been made, then all the Leagues speak with “one voice” assuring consistency of the message.

Additionally, each League establishes its own mission and informs, empowers and educates the public in its own jurisdiction. Each League determines its own POSITIONS after careful study and consensus of its membership.

The League of Women Voters Position Matrix incorporates the position areas for each of the League levels. In this way, if there is no position at the local level on an issue of concern like water, then LWVEA can use the position on water that LWVBA has adopted. This is commonly known as being able to “use positions both horizontally and vertically,” in other words, from league level to league level and across all positions.

For further clarification, please see the **League of Women Voters Position Matrix** which is included later in this Handbook.

LWVEA MEMBERSHIP

Membership is open to all people of voting age, male and female, with student memberships available for younger people. Joining the League at any level automatically confers membership at every level (national, state, county and local) and with that membership comes the opportunity to work on issues and voter service.

LWVEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers and a Board of Directors, chosen by election and by appointment, govern each level of the League. The LWVEA Board has the responsibility of maintaining the non-partisan nature of the organization and deciding whether or not to engage in action on issues based on previously adopted League positions. The current Board roster is included in this handbook.

LWVEA FUNDING

LWVEA is directly supported by membership dues and voluntary donations. Additionally, LWVEA contracts with the Alameda County Registrar of Voters to provide voter registration forms at designated sites. LWVEA also contracts with local homeowner groups who need an impartial third party to implement and monitor their elections.

WHAT WE DO

LWVEA is very proud to proactively participate in activities that inform, empower and educate the public and promote an open democratic society. An explanation of some of those activities are provided below.

VOTER REGISTRATION / VOTER SERVICE

LWVEA provides non-partisan voter registration service where large groups of people congregate like community fairs, BART stations, etc. In coalition with other groups, we encourage the public to accept their rights and responsibilities to participate in the political process. Designing ways to increase voter participation in diverse communities within Eden Area is a commitment of LWVEA. We work hand-in-hand with the County Registrar of Voters on voter outreach projects.

Voter Service is the strength and one of the most important parts of the League's mission and is taken very seriously. The League furthers this mission by informing the public about voting procedures, urging them to vote and providing factual, impartial information about issues and candidates.

CANDIDATE FORUMS

The League believes that educated voters make the best decisions regarding issues and candidates. That is one of the reasons why the League is known for sponsoring candidate forums. In that the League does NOT endorse candidates, the League is therefore in the best position to provide unbiased forums wherein the public can see and hear the candidates in person. The League organizes the forums and invites all the candidates by office. At the forum, the League moderator asks a few preliminary questions of all of the candidates and also asks the audience to submit their questions for all of the candidates. In this way, all candidates have the same opportunity to be heard on each issue and the public has an opportunity for their questions to be answered. LWVEA has organized, presented and moderated numerous congressional, state senate and assembly, mayoral and city council, school boards and special districts forums over the years.

PROS-AND-CONS PRESENTATIONS

One of the most daunting tasks for the public each election season is understanding the propositions put forth on the ballot. Over the years, they have become ever more complicated to understand fully and that is exacerbated by the millions of dollars spent each year on both visual and print media meant to sway the voter one way or the other. In conjunction with the State League and nearby Leagues, LWVEA presents unbiased presentations providing the pros-and-cons of each "side," the fiscal effect of the proposition and information as to which organizations and/or entities are funding the propositions. These presentations are provided at the request of groups in the Eden Area. They are provided at no charge.

HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION ELECTION MANAGEMENT

As one of the core projects that LWVEA engages in to further its mission of encouraging informed and active participation in government, LWVEA manages the elections of several homeowner associations as requested. Our involvement ensures that the elections are managed legally and fairly for all concerned.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LWVEA has been engaged in active outreach to many communities of the Eden Area (the cities of Hayward and San Leandro and the unincorporated communities of Ashland, Cherryland, Castro Valley, Fairview and San Lorenzo). The purpose is to extend the League's mission of fostering an educated and active electorate and to broaden the League's membership making it not just a "mainstream organization" in the Eden Area but a "mainstreaming organization" that can provide a valuable resource to leaders of all of the communities in our area.

OBSERVER CORPS

LWVEA tracks how its positions on issues are faring by asking members to be observers at the meetings of governmental bodies (in person or by television if televised). These observers do not speak for the League nor express any opinion, but simply take note of what occurs and report pertinent information to the appropriate study committees or Board for action as appropriate.

MEMBERSHIP ACTIVITIES

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Each year, LWVEA holds the Annual Membership Meeting. At that meeting, the membership is informed of all of the accomplishments of the past year and are given an opportunity to vote on the following:

- Adoption of the current program
- Adoption of recommended position and/or policy changes
- Election of officers, directors and members of the nominating committee for the coming year
- Adoption of the budget for the coming year

ANNUAL PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

Each year, LWVEA holds the Annual Program Planning Meeting wherein the membership is invited to review the positions of the National League one year and the State League the next. This gives the local membership the opportunity to become familiar with the positions and then provide input as to their continued use and/or request additional study.

At the same meeting, a quick overview of the positions of the LWVBA and LWVACC are provided. The major purpose of this meeting, however, is for the membership of the LWVEA to discuss and vote on which issues it will work on during the upcoming year. As priorities change at the national, state and local levels, this gives the membership the opportunity to input directly to the leagues that will address the issues.

BRIEFINGS/TRAINING

When appropriate, LWVEA conducts training for resource persons to discuss specific subjects to participate at public meetings or at other community organizations. This includes training the speakers who present the Pros-and-Cons Presentations.

THE VOTER NEWSLETTER

In an effort to keep LWVEA's membership apprised of events in their area, as well as the work of the Board of Directors and discussions of issues affecting the membership, the VOTER newsletter is published and electronically sent to each member. It is a comprehensive, content driven publication that is meant to keep the membership informed and educated.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

In addition to the VOTER newsletter, which each member receives, they also receive online publications from the national and state Leagues. Additionally, the Bay Area Monitor is a well-researched, comprehensive publication that provides in-depth articles on the issues facing the membership in the greater Bay Area. There are many publications at all levels which are available for sharing all of which are meant to educate our membership.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS / VOTER'S EDGE

LWVEA, along with Leagues at all levels, have their own websites providing up-to-date information on League activities.

Voter's Edge (www.votersedge.org) is a League-sponsored website that provides the public with a state-of-the-art source of voter information and a personalized ballot based on a specific address that is available before elections. It also reports such information as polling place locations, candidates' profiles and positions, ballot measures with supporting and opposing arguments and post-election results.

LEAGUE GLOSSARY

ACTION/ADVOCACY – Steps taken to influence public policy consistent with League positions. Techniques used to achieve League goals include lobbying, legislative contact, testimony, monitoring, public statements, media campaigns, public forums, coalitions and litigation.

ANNUAL MEETING – An annual membership meeting of a local League to make decisions affecting local goals and operations. At this meeting, the membership elects officers, adopts a budget and local positions and may amend bylaws and adopt studies to be conducted.

BRIEFING – A training session to prepare discussion leaders, resource persons, committee members and others for presentations and discussions of the subjects at meetings. A "Briefing" is also used to prepare members for issues relevant to conventions, legislative interviews and ballot measure presentations.

CALL TO ACTION / ALERT – A carefully timed request from a League Board asking members to take action on behalf of a League position. A request for action is known as a "call to action" by LWVC (state) and an "action alert" by LWVUS (national).

CONCURRENCE – Substantial member agreement reached through group discussion based on information presented by a study committee or through other methods of member participation. Members are asked to concur or agree with a statement rather than to answer a question as is done for consensus. A concurrence statement may be a position held by another League or a decision statement recommended by a League Board or study committee. It must be approved or rejected as written.

CONSENSUS – Substantial member agreement, preferably reached through group discussion. Consensus is the sense of the group rather than a majority opinion. Discussion is based on information prepared by a study committee and is guided by consensus questions. Consensus questions are prepared by a study committee and approved by the appropriate League Board.

CONVENTION – A biennial meeting at the national or state level, or an annual meeting at the regional or local level, during which officers are elected, bylaws are amended, and a budget, local positions and upcoming studies are adopted.

DISCUSSION LEADER – The person who guides the deliberations at a League meeting; usually a person trained to encourage maximum participation and an exchange of ideas.

EDUCATION FUND – The tax deductible "arm" of the League which underwrites only educational projects.

ELECTION GUIDE – A League publication containing the pros and cons of ballot measures and other relevant information for voters including the Easy Voter Guide and an In-Depth Guide.

INTER-LEAGUE ORGANIZATION (ILO) – A group of local Leagues with shared interests organized as a separate League to coordinate activities within a county, metropolitan area or region.

OBSERVER – A League member who attends, on a regular basis, meetings of such official bodies as city councils, school boards, or boards of supervisors for the sole purpose of listening and learning about these bodies, how they function, and to report back to the Board issues of concern. Observers do not speak for the League or express any opinion, but simply take note of what occurs and report pertinent information to the appropriate study committees or to the Board for action.

PER MEMBER PAYMENT (PMP) – Annual assessment of local Leagues paid to the state (LWVC), the Bay Area League (LWVBA), and the national (LWVUS).

PORTFOLIO – The job or particular function of a Board position or office taken on by a member. Portfolios may also be handled by a member who is not elected or appointed as a Board Director but who is an "off-board" Director.

POSITION – A stand on a public policy issue that becomes the basis for action. It includes a position summary as well as specific positions established through the League's study and consensus/concurrence process, subject to regular review and re-approval.

PROGRAM – Those public policy issues chosen for study and/or action by the members. League principles provide authorization for adoption of program.

UNIT MEETING – A group of members gathered to obtain and discuss information on a regular schedule. Unit meetings are open to all.

VERTICAL PROGRAM POSITION – National, state or other levels of League positions are designated as "vertical" if they may be used as the basis for action at lower levels of League without prior permission.

The VOTER – A League newsletter generated by several levels of the League to provide information on current topics, events and special notifications.

VOTER SERVICE – League activities designed to inform the public about voting procedures, to encourage citizens to vote and to provide factual, impartial information about election issues or candidates.

LEADERSHIP TEAMS



The basic responsibilities of the **Leadership Teams** are:

- Recording Team (Leader: Secretary)
 - The Secretary serves as the official recorder of League business
- Financial Team (Leader: Treasurer)
 - Prepares the annual budget
 - Tracks expenses and revenue
 - Prepares internal financial report and completes any external reports
 - Writes checks and balances accounts
 - Facilitates annual audit and prepares the annual financial report for the League
- Database Team (Leader: Treasurer)
 - Manages the membership database
- Program Services Team
 - Manages overall coordination of our major programs
 - Works with the primary person assigned to each program to make sure the checklist has been developed and followed
- Voter Services Team
 - Manages Candidate Forums
 - Oversees the Pros-and-Cons Presentations
 - Trainer of presenters and scheduling of presentations
 - Oversees the Debate Watches
 - Oversees Voter Registration activities
 - Oversees Affidavit Services
 - Oversees Voter's Edge
 - Oversees High School Voter Registration Program
- Membership/Outreach Services Team
 - Manages the Membership Application Process
 - Makes personal contact with new members
 - Arranges New Member Orientation programs
 - Keeps membership records up to date
- Holiday Party Team
 - Researches and obtains a venue and makes recommendations to the Board
 - Makes recommendations to the Board for food and entertainment
 - Manages written documentation for venue, food and entertainment
 - Arranges food delivery
 - Manages auction item donations and keeps the Auction Item List updated
 - Schedules volunteers for decorating/set-up and clean-up
 - Sends acknowledgements and thank you letters to donors for donations

The **Executive Leadership Team** is comprised of current and past presidents. Their duties include:

- Overall coordination of the League
- Convening League meetings
- Assuring adherence to League policies and procedures
- Providing guidance and technical assistance to other teams
- Leading LWVEA in the development and implementation of program and priorities for the year

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS – LOCAL, BAY AREA, COUNTY, STATE AND NATIONAL POSITIONS – Jan. 2019
The LWVEA can take action based on its own positions and from any level of League

LWV EDEN AREA	LWVC – STATE	LWVUS – NATIONAL	LWVBA – BAY AREA	LWV-ACC COUNTY
Government Boards and Commissions Unincorporated Area	Government Campaign Financing Constitution Initiative & Referendum Process Intergovernmental Relations Public Libraries Redistricting State & Local Finances Voting Rights Election Systems	Government Citizen's Right to Vote Congress & the Presidency DC Self Government & Full Voting Representation Election Process Citizen Rights Money in Politics	Government Regional Government Regional Planning	Government County Board of Education & County Office of Education
Natural Resources Land Use and Planning Parks and Recreation District	Natural Resources Agriculture Air Quality Energy Hazardous Materials Land Use Solid Waste Transportation Water	Natural Resources Land Use Agricultural Policy Environmental Protection & Pollution Control Resource Management/ Urban Policy Energy	Natural Resources CEQA Mitigation Environment Air Land Use Water Solid Waste Hazardous Materials Management	Natural Resources
Social Policy Behavioral Health Care Services Library Services	Social Policy Child Care Community College Education P-K to 12 Housing Juvenile Justice/ Dependency Legal Aid Mental Health Care	Social Policy Child Care Equality of Opportunity Gun Control Health Care Policy Meeting Basic Human Needs Public Participation Fiscal Policy	Social Policy Housing Transportation/Airports Surface Transportation	Social Policy Children's Mental Health Services Juvenile Justice
		International Relations		
		Arms Control Military Policy & Defense Spending United Nations Trade & US Relations with Developing Countries		

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

League of Women Voters® of the United States

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT

Promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive.

Voting Rights

Citizen's Right to Vote - Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.

DC Self-Government and Full Voting Representation - Secure for the citizens of the District of Columbia the rights of self-government and full voting representation in both houses of Congress.

Election Process

Apportionment - Support apportionment of congressional districts and elected legislative bodies at all levels of government based substantially on population.

Redistricting - Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation.

Money in Politics - Campaign finance regulation should enhance political equality for all citizens, ensure transparency, protect representative democracy from distortion by big money, and combat corruption and undue influence in government. The League believes that campaign spending must be restricted but not banned. The League supports public financing, full disclosure, abolishing SuperPACs and creating an effective enforcement agency.

Selection of the President - Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct-popular-vote. Support uniform national voting qualifications and procedures for presidential elections. Support efforts to provide voters with sufficient information about candidates.

Citizen Rights

Citizen's Right to Know/Citizen Participation. Protect the citizen's right to know and facilitate citizen participation in government decision-making.

Individual Liberties - Oppose major threats to basic constitutional rights.

Constitutional Amendment Proposals - In addition to League positions, consideration should be given to whether a proposal addresses matters of abiding importance, makes our political system more democratic or protects individual rights, could be achieved by less difficult legislative or political approaches, and is more suited to a constitutional and general approach than to a statutory and detailed approach.

Constitutional Conventions - Concerned that there are many unresolved questions about a Constitutional Convention. Certain conditions must be in place: limited to a single specific topic, full transparency, delegates selected by population, and voting by delegates not by state.

Public Policy on Reproductive Choices - Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

Congress and the Presidency

Congress - Support responsive legislative processes characterized by accountability, representativeness, decision making capability and effective performance.

The Presidency - Promote a dynamic balance of power between the executive and legislative branches within the framework set by the Constitution.

Privatization

Ensure transparency, accountability, positive community impact and preservation of the common good when considering the transfer of governmental services, assets and/or functions to the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Promote peace in an interdependent world by working cooperatively with other nations and strengthening international organizations.

United Nations

Support a strong, effective United Nations to promote international peace and security and to address the social, economic and humanitarian needs of all people.

Trade

Support U.S. trade policies that reduce trade barriers, expand international trade and advance the achievement of humanitarian, environmental and social goals.

U.S. Relations with Developing Countries

Promote U.S. policies that meet long-term social and economic needs of developing countries.

Arms Control

Reduce the risk of war through support of arms control measures.

Military Policy and Defense Spending

Work to limit reliance on military force. Examine defense spending in the context of total national needs.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Promote an environment beneficial to life through the protection and wise management of natural resources in the public interest.

Natural Resources

Promote the management of natural resources as interrelated parts of life-supporting ecosystems.

Resource Management

Promote resource conservation, stewardship and long-range planning, with the responsibility for managing natural resources shared by all levels of government.

Environmental Protection and Pollution Control

Preserve the physical, chemical and biological integrity of the ecosystem, with maximum protection of public health and the environment.

Air Quality - Promote measures to reduce pollution from mobile and stationary sources.

Energy - Support environmentally sound policies that reduce energy growth rates, emphasize energy conservation and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Land Use - Promote policies that manage land as a finite resource and that incorporate principles of stewardship.

Water Resources - Support measures to reduce pollution in order to protect surface water, groundwater and drinking water.

Waste Management - Promote policies to reduce the generation and promote the reuse and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes.

Nuclear Issues - Promote the maximum protection of public health and safety and the environment.

Public Participation

Promote public understanding and participation in decision making as essential elements of responsible and responsive management of our natural resources.

Agriculture Policy

Promote adequate supplies of food and fiber at reasonable prices to consumers and support economically viable farms, environmentally sound farm practices and increased reliance on the free market.

Federal Agriculture Policies - Provide financial support to subsidize agriculture in specific instances, enforce federal antitrust laws to ensure competitive agricultural markets and apply clean air and water regulations to all animal and aquaculture production. The federal government should fund basic agricultural research to provide adequate safety of our food supply

SOCIAL POLICY

Secure equal rights and equal opportunity for all. Promote social and economic justice and the health and safety of all Americans.

Equality of Opportunity

Education, Employment and Housing - Support equal access to education, employment and housing.

Equal Rights - Support ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and efforts to bring laws into compliance with the goals of the ERA.

Federal Role in Public Education - Support federal policies that provide an equitable, quality public education for all children pre-K through grade 12.

Fiscal Policy

Tax Policy - Support adequate and flexible funding of federal government programs through an equitable tax system that is progressive overall and that relies primarily on a broad-based income tax.

Federal Deficit - Promote responsible deficit policies.

Funding of Entitlements - Support a federal role in providing mandatory, universal, old-age, survivors, disability and health insurance.

Health Care

Promote a health care system for the United States that provides access to a basic level of quality care for all U.S. residents, including behavioral health, and controls health care costs.

Immigration

Promote reunification of immediate families; meet the economic, business and employment needs of the United States; be responsive to those facing political persecution or humanitarian crises; and provide for student visas. Ensure fair treatment under the law for all persons. In transition to a reformed system, support provisions for unauthorized immigrants already in the country to earn legal status.

Meeting Basic Human Needs

Support programs and policies to prevent or reduce poverty and to promote self-sufficiency for individuals and families.

Income Assistance - Support income assistance programs, based on need, that provide decent, adequate standards for food, clothing and shelter.

Support Services - Provide essential support services.

Housing Supply - Support policies to provide a decent home and a suitable living environment for every American family.

Child Care

Support programs and policies to expand the supply of affordable, quality child care for all who need it.

Early Intervention for Children at Risk

Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Violence Prevention

Support violence prevention programs in communities.

Gun Control

Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.

Urban Policy

Promote the economic health of cities and improve the quality of urban life.

Death Penalty

The LWVUS supports abolition of the death penalty.

Sentencing Policy

The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.

Human Trafficking

Oppose all forms of domestic and international human trafficking of adults and children, including sex trafficking and labor trafficking.

PRINCIPLES

Whatever the issue, the League believes that efficient and economical government requires competent personnel, the clear assignment of responsibilities, adequate financing, coordination among levels of government, effective enforcement and well defined channels for citizen input and review.

LWV California STATE POSITIONS IN BRIEF

GOVERNMENT

Constitution: Support measures to secure an orderly and simplified State Constitution: provisions which enable the Legislature to deal with state problems efficiently, flexibly, and with responsibility clearly fixed, and constitutional guarantee of equal representation of all citizens in the state legislature. 1957, updated in 1965-67

Election Systems: Support election systems for executive and other single seat offices, both at the state and local levels, that require the winner to receive a majority of the votes, as long as the majority is achieved using a voting method such as Instant Runoff Voting, rather than a second, separate runoff election. Adopted 2001, Amended 2003 and 2011.

Initiative and Referendum: Support citizens' right of direct legislation through the initiative and referendum process. 1984, updated in 1999, 2013

Intergovernmental Relationships: Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public. 1981

Legal Aid: Support measures that will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services. 1971; Revised 1983

Money in Politics: Support state campaign finance practices for candidates and advocates of ballot measure positions that will ensure full disclosure of campaign contributions and expenditures and enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office. Adopted 1973; Updated 1976

Public Libraries: Support a public library system as a basic community service with a long-term assured, stable and adequate funding source. Support access by all persons to public library services as a major source of knowledge and information necessary for informed, active participation in a democratic society. 1998

Redistricting California: Support a state 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. Support an independent commission as the preferred redistricting body. Adopted 1988; Amended 2007

State and Local Finances: Support measures to ensure revenues both sufficient and flexible enough to meet changing needs for state and local government services; that contribute to a system of public finance that emphasizes equity and fair sharing of the tax burden as well as adequacy; that include long range finance methods that meet current and future needs while taking into account the cumulative impact of public debt. Support a process that maintains statutory authority over tax sources, rates and tax expenditures; that makes limited use of direct voting by the public on revenue measures; and that allows adoption of revenue and finance measures by a simple majority vote. Support the distribution of revenue sources between state and local governments in a manner to ensure adequate, equitable and flexible funding of public programs based on the responsibilities and requirements of each and that encourages accountability. Support an equitable, broad-based local property tax, easy and economical to administer, producing adequate revenue with limitations on the types of services it funds. Support assessment practices and policies that are equitable, accurate, easy to understand and well publicized, with like properties treated uniformly. Adopted 1969, Updated 1975, New Positions 1976, 1977, 1981, 1995

Voting Rights: Support measures which will protect every citizen's right to vote and ensure government's responsibility to protect this right through regulations and procedures that encourage an informed and active electorate. Adopted 1972, Reviewed in 1986

NATURAL RESOURCES

Climate Change: Supports actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change in order to protect our state from the negative physical, economic, and public health effects.

Agriculture: Support policies that recognize agricultural land as a limited resource that must be preserved for the economic and physical well-being of California and the nation. Appropriate agricultural land should be identified and its long term protection should be based on regulatory and incentive programs which include comprehensive planning, zoning measures and other preservation techniques. State policy which affects agriculture should ensure the conservation of soil and water resources through incentives coupled with penalties for noncompliance. Adopted 1983, Amended 2015

Air Quality: Support measures to establish air quality standards that will protect the public health and welfare, and the development of effective enforcement and implementation procedures at each level of government to attain these standards. Adopted 1971, Updated 1973

California Water Resources: Support measures that promote the management and development of water resources in ways that are beneficial to the environment with emphasis on conservation and high standards of water quality that are appropriate for the intended use. Adopted 1959; Updated 1961, 1967, 1971, 1979

Energy: The League supports development of a state energy policy that will ensure reliability of energy resources and protection of the environment and public health and safety, at reasonable customer rates, giving primary consideration to conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable resources. State government should provide an efficient, coordinated energy administrative structure with open transparent procedures. Adopted 1978, updated in 1980 & 2006; Amended 2007

Hazardous Materials: Support comprehensive measures to provide maximum protection to human health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials, including pesticides. An integrated approach should be taken to prevent harmful exposures

through soil, surface and ground water contamination, bio-accumulation, air pollution and direct contact. Hazardous materials planning should promote pollution prevention. All levels of government share responsibility for preventing exposures. Adopted 1986 and 1987

Land Use: Support state land use planning that recognizes land as a resource as well as a commodity. The state should establish guidelines and standards for land areas of more than local concern. Decisions for these areas should be made at the lowest level of government feasible, but should be subject to state review. Citizens must have a meaningful participation in land use planning and regulation. Adopted 1975

Solid Waste: Support measures to ensure environmentally sound and efficient solid waste management, to reduce the generation of wastes, to encourage resource recovery, and to increase the demand for secondary materials. Adopted 1973

Transportation: Support a transportation system to move people and goods that includes a variety of transportation modes, with emphasis on increased public transportation services and other viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled; is efficient, convenient, and cost-effective; is safe and secure; serves all segments of the population and diverse geographic needs; minimizes harmful effects on the environment; is integrated with land use; and is supported by extensive public education. Adopted 1981, Revised 1985, New Position in 1991

SOCIAL POLICY

Child Care: Support state and local policies, legislation and programs that meet the need for accessible, affordable, and quality child care. Adopted 1989

Children and Family Issues: Support policies and programs that promote the well-being, development and safety of all children.

Community College System: Support a statewide community college system with sufficient resources to fulfill its overall goal: to offer all Californians access to a quality higher education. Resources

should be stable, accommodate all enrolling students, be fairly distributed among the college districts, and provide opportunities for long-range planning. Governance should allow greater authority within the system itself with local districts making key decisions about mission priorities to meet community needs. Adopted 2003

Pre-K through 12 Education: Support a comprehensive pre-kindergarten through twelfth grade public education system that meets the needs of each individual student; challenges all students to reach their highest potential; develops patterns of lifelong learning and responsible citizenship. Support improvements in public education, based on access with both equitable and sufficient opportunities to learn for all students.

Support a system of public education funding that is adequate, flexible, equitable, reliable and sustainable; derived from a combination of revenue sources; and distributed fairly to support access and equitable opportunities for all students. Support formulating broad general guidelines at the state level, with flexibility at the local level for developing and implementing program. Adopted 1973, Updated 1985, 2005

Housing: Support of equal opportunity in housing. Support of measures to provide state programs to increase the supply of safe, decent, and adequate housing for all Californians. Support for action at all levels of government for the provision of affordable housing for all Californians. Adopted 1970, Updated 1973, 1993

Juvenile Justice/Dependency: Support a juvenile justice/dependency system that works to prevent child abuse and neglect and juvenile delinquency, that serves foster children and their families and status offenders, and which rehabilitates juvenile offenders, by promoting the safety and well-being of children and helping to prepare them for productive participation in society. Support early identification of at-risk children and families followed by appropriate referrals to services that work with children, youth, families and schools. Support community efforts to provide safe supportive environments for children and their families and institutions that respect them and promote non-violent solutions to problems. Support the rights and best interests of the child in preference to those of any other individual. Adopted 1997, 1999, Amended 2011

Public Higher Education: Supports a comprehensive system of public higher education that serves the personal, professional, and occupational goals of all adult Californians and advances the social, economic, and civic needs of the state. To achieve these objectives, public higher education must prioritize access, affordability, equity, and excellence. These priorities require state funding, including student financial aid that is stable, predictable, sustainable, and timely

Mental Health Care: Support an adequately funded mental health care system that provides comprehensive services to the acutely, chronically, and seriously mentally ill of all ages; maintains optimal mental health services for all clients; places emphasis on meeting the needs of children; offers mental health services for the homeless; seeks additional funds for preventive services; implements a master plan to integrate services; raises awareness of critical unmet needs; and emphasizes case management. Adopted 1998

LWVBA POSITIONS 2012-2014

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT (updated 5/2000)

Support legislative action to establish a multi-purpose regional planning agency for the nine Bay Area counties with directly elected representatives from newly established districts

Support, in the interim, state or local government action to consolidate existing regional agencies **Support** measures to make regional decision-making bodies representative of the population distribution and region-wide governmental, environmental, social equity, and economic interests

1. Recognition that many regional functions require cooperation between the level of government closest to the people and regional governing bodies
2. Concerted effort to maintain local government identity within the regional framework
3. Authority for the designated regional planning agency (currently ABAG) to prepare and implement a long-term, comprehensive regional plan and capital improvements program according to state policies and guidelines, with:
 - a. power of eminent domain
 - b. authority to review local general plans and major development proposals for consistency with the regional plan
 - c. power to allocate or withhold federal and state funds to implement the comprehensive regional plan and capital improvements program
4. Mandatory local general and special district plan compliance with the comprehensive regional plan
5. Reform of the state/local finance system to provide local governments with sufficient and dependable funding, and adequate funding for comprehensive regional planning and implementation

REGIONAL PLANNING (updated 5/2000)

Support legislation to establish state/regional/local comprehensive planning criteria that promote compact growth, natural resources protection, and social and economic equity

1. Include as planning considerations: environmental quality, transportation, conservation and environmentally sensitive development of the Bay, its shoreline and tributaries, parks, open space, agricultural lands and natural resources, sewage and waste disposal, housing, seismic hazards, employment, social equity, and economic health
2. Limit future growth to the existing urbanized areas in order to prevent urban sprawl, protect environmental resources, maintain open space around urban centers, utilize existing services, provide workforce housing close to jobs, and promote a regional transportation system, through:
 - a. regional growth framework that coordinates local growth boundaries and includes:
 - b. land use controls outside the boundaries to protect agricultural lands and natural resources,
 - c. requirements inside the boundaries for more job-related housing and transit-oriented development with consideration of social equity, and natural resource protection, and
 - d. adherence of LAFCOs to the regional growth framework
 - e. regional capital improvements program for allocating federal, state, and local resources for regional facilities, low-to-moderate income housing, and land acquisition to implement the regional plan
3. Create a sense of regional identity
4. Maintain local and community identity.

ENVIRONMENT Air Land Use Water Solid Waste
(Updated 5/2000)

Support regional solutions to environmental pollution that provide effective air and water quality control and regional planning for solid waste management **Support** measures for conservation and environmentally sensitive development of San Francisco Bay that promote enhancement and preservation of the Bay and its shoreline, tributaries, native vegetative communities and habitats **Support** measures that ensure adequate parks and the protection of natural resources, open space, and agricultural land, both outside urban growth boundaries and in urbanized areas

Support natural resources policies to achieve:

1. Air and water quality standards that adequately protect people and the environment and effective enforcement of these standards
2. Clean air through regulation of motor vehicle emissions
3. Sound long-range planning for sewage, industrial and solid waste disposal
4. Conservation of the Bay's ecology, including tributaries and riparian and other native plant communities and habitats
5. Measures to ensure that public access does not degrade habitats and native plant communities and that economic growth does not adversely impact the environment
6. Requirement that the polluter pay for clean-up costs.

NATURAL RESOURCES*CEQA MITIGATION

Support effective legislation, guidelines, and criteria for governmental decision making on mitigation of the negative environmental impacts of a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) that take into account whether: 1) the decision to proceed or not is environmentally sound and gives particular attention to cumulative impacts; and 2) the mitigation plan is properly implemented under an acceptable process for meeting legal requirements and public need.

1, Strengthen California Environmental Quality Act:

- a. clear process for project determination by the lead agency
- b. early public involvement with emphasis on public hearings
- c. environmental checklists identifying significant effects for initial study
- d. assessment of the broad cumulative impacts
- e. effective implementation of monitoring programs,
- f. sufficient funding for mitigations

2 Utilize CEQA to inform decision making in consideration of League positions on Regional Planning; Housing and Economics; Environment; Transportation and Hazardous Materials on whether to:

- a. avoid the project;
 - b. proceed with the project as proposed;
 - c. proceed with appropriate mitigations;
 - d. proceed with an alternative project and appropriate mitigations
- 3 Apply appropriate criteria to the mitigation decision making to
- a. determine whether there is an acceptable or unacceptable process for meeting legal requirements and public need;
 - b. identify the comprehensive and realistic environmental impacts of a project under CEQA, including cumulative impacts; and
 - c. prevent or eliminate environmental damage.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

This is a vertical position – Local Leagues are authorized to take local action on the basis of it.

Support a hazardous materials management program that protects the public health and the environment from the adverse effects of hazardous materials in the Bay Area, including:

1. Identification of the hazardous materials used, stored and disposed of in each locality, including chemical/common name of hazardous material, quantity of substance and location, acute/chronic health effects and other potential risks from exposure, proper response procedures, method of disposal and route of transportation.
2. Disclosure to the lead governmental organization appropriate agencies and the public with proper safeguard for trade secrets and security concerns.
3. Mechanisms for coordination between agencies need to be developed with
 - a. clearly defined agency responsibilities;
 - b. clearly defined notification procedures;
 - c. defined information dissemination procedures
 - d. coordinated data base;
 - e. single body responsible for implementation
 - f. statement of goals, objectives and policies for siting hazardous materials and hazardous waste facilities and for general management of hazardous materials in the foreseen future;

- g. integration with other local land use planning activities;
- h. consistency with the applicable general plan; periodic review;
 - . full and meaningful involvement of the public, environmental groups, civic associations and hazardous waste treatment or disposal facility staffs;
 - j. establishment of an advisory committee with representatives from the above groups;
 - k. incentives to site new hazardous waste treatment or disposal facilities; and
 - l. consideration of provisions for public education, enforcement, surveillance, transportation; administration; funding for implementation; coordination between public and private sector; and incentives for waste reduction and recycling.
- 4. Adequate funding for hazardous materials management programs and public education by a combination of sources including user fees, penalties and fines, County and State General Funds, State Hazardous Waste Account, State and Federal Superfunds as appropriate.
- 5. Development of a hazardous materials management plan which should include the following elements:
 - a. an analysis of existing and projected hazardous materials use and disposal by type and volume;
 - b. an inventory of existing facilities for storing, handling, recycling, treating and disposal of hazardous materials and estimated capacity of each;
 - c. a program for management of small volumes of hazardous materials and waste; and
 - d. identification of those facilities that can be expanded to accommodate projected needs, and identification of specific sites for new facilities or general areas for locating new facilities, and siting criteria to be used in choosing sites.

SOCIAL POLICY * HOUSING (Updated 5/2000)

Support a regional housing plan that provides for balanced and equitable housing throughout the region

Support federal and state legislation that facilitates the implementation of regional housing goals

Support a regional fair share housing plan as part of the broader comprehensive regional plan

1. Place special emphasis, consistent with compact growth principles, on local efforts to meet needs for very-low-to-moderate-income housing
2. State and regional guidelines for local policies that promote:
 - a. higher density housing
 - b. inclusionary zoning
 - c. mixed-use housing
 - d. housing near transit
 - e. incentives for development of affordable housing
 - f. incentives for rehabilitation of existing housing stock
 - g. clarity and consistency in the development process
 - h. emphasis on good design, maintenance and management of subsidized housing
 - i. retention of subsidized housing as affordable housing
3. Requirement that major new commercial and industrial developments assist in providing housing for the jobs created by such developments
4. Establishment of a regional trust fund for the funding of needed housing development throughout the region

TRANSPORTATION* SURFACE (Updated 5/2012)

Support a long-term, comprehensive planning process consistent with the comprehensive Bay Area plan and growth management framework (currently ABAG's plan) to promote compact, transit-oriented growth patterns served by an efficient, interconnected, multi-modal transportation network

Support planning processes that consistently involve public participation designed to include:

- a. outreach to all communities, with particular attention to those that are underserved by public transit;

- b. presentations that are simple, clear, and easily comprehended by a public not versed in transportation acronyms and jargon, and that are provided in the languages appropriate to non-English-speaking persons;
- c. follow-up evaluation by participants that includes measurement of their satisfaction with the materials and the presentation and their confidence that their needs have been understood and are being addressed.

Support a transportation system that offers viable alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle use, that is designed to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single-occupancy vehicle use, and that is:

- a. multi-modal,
- b. efficient,
- c. convenient,
- d. reliable,
- e. cost-effective,
- f. accessible to people with disabilities,
- g. equitable, and
- h. safe.

1) The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), as the currently designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), **should** develop criteria and a process for evaluating all applicable modes of public transit and pedestrian and bicycle alternatives as a framework for testing proposals in order to build the most effective regional transportation system.

2) The MPO should develop criteria and a system for allocating state and federal transportation funds to encourage compact, transit-oriented growth patterns, with:

- a. an analysis of potential transportation investments that includes their effects on future land uses in and beyond the Bay Area;
- b. criteria for evaluating alternative transportation investments that include reasonable fares, environmental effects on health (including air and water quality, noise

reduction), on the production of greenhouse gas emissions, and on agriculture and natural resources;

- c. the analyses are to be presented as public information prior to selection of projects;
- d. the distribution of funds is to be tied to cooperative local land use planning

- 3) Bay Area transit systems should be linked into an efficient, reliable, convenient and affordable regional transit network with:
- a. attention to reasonable fares, reduction of travel times, extensive hours of service, and good feeder service;
 - b. easily comprehended materials describing routes, schedules, and transit hubs; and
 - c. a fare payment method that can be used on all systems.

- 4) Good service is to be encouraged by:
- a. monitoring the relative efficiency of various systems, and
 - b. maintaining transit system options to mitigate interruptions in service (disasters, strikes) and to serve needs of people with special limitations

- 5) Transportation funding should be more reliably consistent with needs and long-term planning (e.g., annual adjustment of the gas tax to cover costs of road maintenance)

TRANSPORTATION * AIRPORTS (Updated 5/2014)

Support coordination between environmental and land use concerns and the need for aviation services in the Bay Area.

- 1. The safety of airport operations should be the primary concern in planning, designing and operating airports.
- 2. Airport planning and operations should be the primary concern in planning, designing, and operating airports.
- 3. New development in neighboring areas that is incompatible with the airport operations should be prevented through far-sighted planning and consistently enforced in zoning ordinances.
- 4. Noise pollution from airport operations should be minimized and limited to levels that are not injurious to the health and well-being of area residents and businesses. Continuing monitoring should be required, along with the use of technical measures to mitigate noise pollution.

5. Airport access and egress should be safe and convenient for people, with an emphasis on mass transit. Convenient access should be provided for goods and services.
6. Existing airports should be maintained and improved before new ones are considered, with need, demand and cost taken into account.
7. Cooperative decision-making among jurisdictions that would be impacted is important in considering the needs of regional airports.

ALAMEDA COUNTY COUNCIL POSITIONS

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES (Adopted 1979)

The Leagues of Women Voters of Alameda County support the need for Children's Mental Health Services and recommend the following:

- A. Increase the priority given Children's Mental Health Services in the County Mental health program and budget.
- B. Retain present service and ensure equal access to Day Treatment Service throughout the County.
- C. Focus on prevention and early intervention by:
 - 1. Increased education of parents and public
 - 2. Utilization of school resources where feasible.
- D. Finance these services by:
 - 1. Active pursuit of all available sources of funds.
 - 2. Coordination of County, State, and Federal budget deadlines
 - 3. Sufficient funds for a service from the level of government that mandates that service.
- E. Make most efficient use of funds by:
 - 1. Retention and expansion of contracts with private providers
 - 2. Support for Case Management system of services
 - 3. Increased coordination and communication among all public and private service providers and continuation of the Interagency Council.

ALAMEDA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, ALAMEDA COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, ALAMEDA COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION (Adopted 2007)

I. Position in Brief: Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of governance with accountability to the public and that results in providing services that best meet needs of students and the local school districts.

A. Efficiency: Provide those services (education, training, fiscal, oversight) to county school programs and district school programs that do not duplicate those provided by districts or other agencies.

B. Effectiveness: Provide those services that best meet the needs and interests of local districts. Constantly monitor services to determine their effectiveness and remove or improve those that are not meeting district goals.

C. Equitable Balance of Responsibility and Authority for Governance

1. Establish policies that delineate the powers and functions of each entity where not covered explicitly in the Education Code to ensure an equitable balance of responsibility and authority for governance and to enhance accountability.
2. Provide for consolidation of functions between and among county offices of education to deal with area-wide problems. Consider consolidation of functions to achieve cost savings and improve the quality of service and equity.

D. Accountability to the Public

1. Ensure that both the Board and the Superintendent abide by the tenets of the Brown Act, and the Freedom of Information Act and the California Public Records Act.
2. Maintain public visibility by utilizing technology to keep constituents informed about actions taken by the Board and the County Superintendent.
3. Advertise upcoming elections for Board members' and the County Superintendent's seat to encourage contested elections. This will allow the public to learn about the candidates' credentials and the issues so they can make informed choices.
4. Develop a collaborative Annual Work Plan to set up measurable goals to be used in the annual evaluation of both Board Members' and Superintendent's performance. These evaluations will then be helpful in the Superintendent salary-setting process and for measuring progress toward established goals.

II. Monitoring

The League's role should be to:

1. Continue observing County Board of Education meetings to ensure compliance with the Brown Act and Education Code.
2. Monitor the County Office website to ensure that constituents have access to current and complete information concerning actions taken by the County Office/Superintendent and the Board.
3. Review Grand Jury comments and recommendations pertaining to the County Board and County Superintendent and support those that support the improvement of efficient, effective, and appropriate governance and fiscal management of those entities.
4. Monitor the governance model to determine if there is any interest by the public in changing the method of selecting a County Superintendent.

JUVENILE JUSTICE (Adopted 1977)

The Alameda County Council of the League of Women Voters supports policies that promote services to meet the needs of Alameda County and minimize delinquency.

A. The County Council supports effective and responsible decision-making for youth at the county level.

Specifically the council supports:

1. Continuing evaluation of the Alameda County Probation Department Juvenile Division to ensure that its goals and functions are clear and effective;
2. Continued citizen input into all countywide juvenile justice programs;
3. Coordination of all community programs for Alameda County youth to ensure that the needs of the communities are met and that duplication of services is avoided;
4. Citizen involvement in setting priorities for diversion and prevention services;
5. Continued evaluation and accountability to the public of programs funded by public moneys.
6. County decision-making bodies:
 - a. Appointments to commissions that reflect the diversified population of the county;
 - b. Guidelines for commission members which are clear statements of their responsibilities and authority;

c. Adequate staff;

d. Assessment of limited number of terms;

e. Reimbursement to commissioners for personal expenses, i.e., transportation and baby-sitting.

B. The County Council supports a coordinated multidimensional concept of services which could include:

1. Vocational training;
2. Programs that provide jobs and job training for youth;
3. Recreational opportunities
4. Counseling for youth and their families, both long-term and for crises;
5. Mental health services which meet the needs of youth, supported by adequate funding, i.e., residential treatment centers for juveniles;
6. Youth diversion programs:

a. Staff and volunteers having close ties to the community of the juveniles being served;

b. Involvement of youth in program planning, implementation and evaluation;

c. Integration into projects available with other than just delinquent youths;

d. Adequate program facilities.

C. The County Council encourages school districts to deal effectively with pupil welfare and pupil attendance, i.e., truancy, child neglect, child abuse and severe behavior problems.

D. The County Council supports greater community awareness of the problems and needs of youth and programs that are currently available.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS EDEN AREA LOCAL POSITIONS

GOVERNMENT BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports a responsive, visible system of county and city boards and commissions as a means of ensuring effective resident involvement in the government decision-making process.

Policies to Promote:

- A. An up-to-date directory of boards and commissions to make the following information available to the public, including electronically:
 - Functions and jurisdictions
 - Dates and places of regular meetings
 - Staffing
 - Dates of commissioners' appointments and by whom appointed
 - Length of terms.
- B. Public awareness of the obligations and responsibilities of elected and appointed members.
- C. Limitation of appointments to two full terms or ten years, whichever is longer.
- D. Listing of specific costs of commissions in budgets.
- E. Publicizing vacancies and applicant requirements.
- F. Periodic review of existing boards and commissions including Brown Act compliance.
- G. Justification for formation of new boards and commissions; discontinuance of unnecessary boards and commissions.
- H. Effective communication and coordination between boards and commissions and the elected bodies which appoint them.
- I. Adoption by public agencies of policies and procedures which require the use of alternative dispute resolution processes (ADR)* in local public policy disputes as a predecessor/supplement to the traditional litigation process,

ADR: non-adversarial collaborative approaches to building consensus and resolving differences.

Boards and Commissions:

Adopted 1980 (H) (SL)

Updated: 1990 (EA)

Updated: **2005** (EA)

Alternative Dispute Resolution:

Concurrence:

1996 (EA)

UNINCORPORATED AREAS

A. The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports the policy that residents in all urbanized unincorporated areas within Eden Township are best served by having their own locally elected representatives, and that the preferred form of governance is as an incorporated municipality. The LWVEA believes that incorporation as a city improves citizen access to local government. It also enables communities to have self-determination and local control related to the taxes they pay and the land-use decisions they make.

Recognizing that incorporation may not be always possible, then residents in urbanized unincorporated areas of Eden should be enabled to choose the type of governance best suited for their particular area. In addition to incorporation, those choices could be municipal annexation, special district formation and informal government organization.

1. Municipal incorporation: Incorporated community with its own government that meets requirements of California law
2. Municipal annexation--the process by which an incorporated local government may extend its legal control over surrounding areas. Within the legislation, the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is given the sole and exclusive authority for the annexation of additional territory to a city.
3. Special district formation: Special districts are a form of local government created by a local community to meet a specific need.
 - a. Independent districts-- which have their own separate boards of directors elected by the districts' own voters. Larger independent districts (H.A.R.D) have a professional manager, similar to county administrator, to assist the governing officials. The governing boards adopt policies that the general managers carry out.
 - b. Dependent districts (all County Service Areas, like Flood control and mosquito abatement) are governed by legislative bodies like board of supervisors.
4. Informal government organization: Unincorporated community with a Community Planning Organization, such as Castro Valley's MAC that reacts to land use proposals. They may also engage in long-range planning and advocate for community interests. Advisory boards may be elected, appointed, or chosen by residents. The League recommends that members be elected.

B. Before an urbanized unincorporated area changes its governance model, there needs to be evidence that:

1. change would be fiscally viable to sustain the new entity.
2. residents have been informed and have participated in the action to make the change in governance model
3. no significant negative impact to the County.
4. no significant negative impact to adjoining incorporated areas.
5. the new model meets all legal standards for governance.
6. there is leadership to implement the new model.

C. When the residents have made the choice for change in governance for their unincorporated area, there should be assurance that payment for property-related services shall be equitable to those of similar governance types in the county, and there shall be active participation by residents of the unincorporated areas in development of policies which will affect them.

Policies to Promote:

1. Ensure that urban unincorporated areas should incorporate or annex to an existing municipality. This policy does not assume automatic dissolution of special districts have the opportunity to explore the various types of governance models that may be suitable for their community.
2. Support governance models that residents feel would improve the livability and sustainability of their community.
3. Support the equitable payment for property-related services by service users in incorporated or unincorporated areas. - These services include sanitary, water, parks, and fire services not provided by city or county. (Parks are considered as property-related; their recreational programs are not.
4. Include maintenance, operations, and capital development costs in the definition of equitable payment.
5. Evaluate existing property-related services for effectiveness when unincorporated areas incorporate or annex to ensure adequate information to be used in decision-making.

6. Support special policies by Alameda County and the Local Agency formation Commission (LAFCO) for the heavily urbanized unincorporated areas of Eden Township with respect to special districts.

7. Support more continued broad representation for unincorporated areas on the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO).

8. Support the greatest possible citizen participation by people in unincorporated areas in all questions of incorporation and annexation changing governance models for their community.

D. Study appropriate means for local residents in the unincorporated areas to take an active part in the decision-making process. The overriding consensus of the League is that there is a particular need at this time of economic crises and changing governmental relations to reiterate League unerring support for resident participation at all levels of government if the democratic nature of that government is to be preserved in any real sense. Therefore, in relation to the particular problems facing residents in unincorporated areas, the League supports the following institutional and attitudinal changes:

1. An institutional change from unincorporated to incorporated another governance model. This would minimize the excessive fragmentation which exists because the government of the unincorporated areas now consists of uncoordinated special functions. This change would allow for greater resident participation, and in turn, would create a more effective governmental structure.

2. In order to bring about the kind of institutional change which is needed, the League supports the organization of community-based groups. Such organizations create mechanisms through which individual residents may band together to more effectively:

a. Promote annexation and incorporation efforts suitable governance models to replace unincorporated areas.

b. Lobby to obtain quasi-governmental groups for their areas, such as Municipal Advisory Councils (MACs)

c. Coordinate the other ordinary means of being heard, such as letter- writing campaigns, testifying, writing position papers, getting a member appointed or elected to advisory or elected positions, or, if necessary, bringing suit. HB4>30

3. Because the institutional change is a long-range goal, the League supports the improvement of current governmental practices. The Board of Supervisors and special districts should promote cooperation among these fragmented governmental entities for greater efficiency and accessibility.

a. Boards must be both intellectually and financially committed to resident participation with a recognition of the importance of readily available information such as:

- (1) meeting times and places
- (2) agendas which are understandable by the layman
- (3) minutes which are accessible without undue cost
- (4) procedures for testifying
- (5) procedures for following through on particular concerns
- (6) budget
- (7) use of electronic mail and Internet

b. Board decisions, both in the pre- and post- deliberative stages, should be open to public process. There is a special need for decisions made at one level to be communicated to other affected levels in order to provide for coordinated planning.

E. The following actions are recommended:

1. Monitor the activities of boards and commissions, especially the Board of Supervisors, the Local Agency Formation Commission, and other boards and commissions that affect services in the Unincorporated Area.
2. Encourage increased and more effective media coverage in the local press and cable television.

3. Heighten the awareness of residents who make decisions in their areas on how to approach and influence decision-makers by:
 - a. Encouraging the Board of Supervisors to continue to meet on a regular basis in the Unincorporated Area, and to continue the Unincorporated Services Committee.
 - b. Continuing the League telephone hot line to help residents gain information on voting and cutting through red tape. The hot line could provide information on whom to call, when, and how to do it.
4. Monitor for possible study the problems of unincorporated areas, including effect on land use planning, delivery of services and costs, function of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) and specific budget information on county expenses and income for each unincorporated area.

Adopted:1979 (H)Consensus:1990(EA)

Adopted:1982 (H)Updated:1999,2005 (EA) 2006 (EA)

LAND USE AND PLANNING

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports positive planning policies to achieve a livable and harmonious physical environment for a diverse population with a healthy balance of residential, commercial, industrial, public uses and open space; a variety of densities and housing types; and the necessary services and amenities for all residents.

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports measures which ensure protection for parks, open space, agricultural land, and baylands with emphasis on comprehensive regional land use planning, control of urban sprawl, transportation and increased inclusive public participation and review in land use decisions.

Policies to promote:

A. General and Master Plans: support the concept of the General Plan as a guide to long- range planning.

B. General and Master Plans that are comprehensive, flexible, and innovative, and require adequate public discussion to change designations and more extensive notification procedures prior to hearings and appeals on rezoning, variances, and conditional use.

C. Specific planning for urban growth (infilling) rather than continued urban sprawl; choices should include single-family dwellings, multi-family dwellings, which include affordable housing; density compatible with surrounding community, with quality and inclusion of an adequate transportation plan for such developments.

D. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines should be followed in recommendations for mitigation and identification of the comprehensive and realistic environmental impacts of a project. Support the LWV Bay Area policy.

E. Zoning: Support a planning approach to zoning which conforms to the General Plan.

1. Strengthening requirements for naturally developed open space.
2. Greater compliance by Planned Unit Development (PUD) to the presented precise plans.

When a PUD is approved by a city or county planning commission/council, the Board of Supervisors should allow only minor modifications. Major modifications to a PUD should require a public hearing and input.

F. Adequate funding should be provided to cities and counties for general and specific plan development.

G. Planning Commissions should represent the entire community, have standards and procedures for appointment, and do long-range planning and study, including capital improvement projects which relate to the General Plan.

H. Provision for structured resident participation in the process of land use planning in addition to that provided by the city commissions and county.

I. Rationalization of city boundaries by annexation or de-annexation of properties outside of influence.

J. Community concurrence with the decisions made by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of city boundary annexation or de-annexation of properties of adjacent spheres of influence.

PARKS AND RECREATION

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports measures that ensure that adequate parks and recreational facilities are provided for all the communities served by the various recreation and park districts in the Eden Area. Protection should be provided for natural resources, open space and environmentally sensitive areas. Adequate funding should be available to provide a variety of recreational opportunities.

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports:

1. Important multi-jurisdictional recreational opportunity providers and protectors of many natural and man-made assets;
2. The maintenance and enhancement of the refuges, park system areas, trails, baylands, and recreation programs
3. provided within the Eden Area;
4. Efforts to avoid fragmenting the established districts or eroding their tax bases in order to effectively operate these important community facilities and services;
5. Formation of a citizen's advisory committee for Hayward Area Recreation and Park District

Policies to promote:

A. Encourage joint planning and cooperative projects for the acquisition and creation of parklands, Baylands, Ridgeland, open space and trails for recreational and educational uses by the East Bay Regional Park District, the Hayward Area Recreation and Park District, Alameda County, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the City of Hayward, and the City of San Leandro.

B. Adoption, continual review and updating of the Master Plans to guide acquisition and development with emphasis on preservation of the area's natural state of parklands, park facilities, and trails within districts.

C. Purchase of Baylands jointly by public agencies--local, regional, state, and federal--with funding capabilities. Wetlands on the shoreline should be protected and enlarged wherever possible. Local governments, with the help of citizen involvement, can benefit in the long term from a protected shoreline.

1. Preserve the historical and education value of area salt ponds.
2. Reversion to marshes of as many areas as possible.
3. Consideration of the creation of a freshwater lake as a much-needed watering area for water birds and other species needing other than Bay waters.

D. Encourage joint planning and cooperative projects for the acquisition and creation and maintenance of parklands, Baylands, Ridgeland, open space and trails for recreational and educational uses by the East Bay Regional Park District, the Hayward Area Park and Recreation District, Alameda County, the Local Agency Formation Commission, the City of Hayward, the City of San Leandro, state and federal agencies.

E. Expenditure of capital funds on an equitable basis in line with the priorities in Master Plans within the districts.

F. Acquisition of parklands for recreation, conservation of significant habitat areas, protection of rare species, and educational development.

- Acquisition of new parklands
- Wetlands (Baylands) and shorelines
- Trails, including Bay Trails, Ridge Trails, Creek Corridors, and Bay-to-Bridge connections

G. Protection of existing parklands from degradation; urban freeway utility lines, visual intrusion, and traffic.

H. Promotion of public discussion and input for Master Plan and planning process.

Hay Land Use	Eden Area Planning	Parks & Recreation	EA Shoreline
Adopted: 1963 (H)	Adopted: 1981 (SL)	Adopted: 1968 (H)	Adopted: 1972
Updated: 1964 (H)	Consensus: 1990	Consensus: 1990 (EA)	Consensus: 1990
Consensus: 1990	Updated: 1993 (EA)	Updated: 1997	
Updated: 1997		Updated: 2005 (EA)	

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports the availability of comprehensive behavioral health care, which includes both mental health and substance use disorder, for all residents of Alameda County regardless of their ability to pay for those services in order to foster the well-being of residents individually and the community in general.

Policies to Promote:

- a) Implementation of legislation and regulations that provide community-based behavioral health care while respecting the integrity of neighborhoods.
- b) A three-tiered module approach consisting of prevention, early intervention and follow-up therapy for patients of all ages with emphasis placed on meeting the needs of children, veterans and the elderly. Behavioral health care that is integrated with, and achieves parity with, physical health care.
- c) Access for all people to affordable, quality in- and quality-out patient behavioral health care, including needed medications and supportive services. Appropriate level of treatment of patients in their local environment when possible.
- d) Access to safe and stable housing for people with behavioral health challenges, including those who are chronically homeless.
- e) Effective re-entry planning and follow-up for people returning from military service and/or released from both behavioral health hospitalization and the criminal justice system.
- f) Expansion of the number and/or capacity of quality facilities in all communities to provide necessary follow-up and continuous care for the mentally ill, particularly those who have been hospitalized and/or need custodial care.
- g) Problem solving or specialty courts, including mental health and drug courts, in all judicial districts to provide needed treatment and avoid entry into the criminal justice system.
- h) Use of sliding fee scale to ensure that community health care clinics serve all residents in need of **behavioral** health care services.

- i) Support requirement of appropriate level of training and oversight for providers of behavioral health care services, providing families and local residents with access to agencies and providing oversight to insure that proper care and maintenance is being provided.
- j) Support living wages as minimal compensation paid to behavioral health care providers.
- k) Support collaboration of local community health care service providers with related agencies and neighboring community-based organizations to meet the behavioral health care needs of all residents; support funding sources for the purpose of collaboration.
- l) Support legislation and applications for a grant that increase funding for improved behavioral health care services and reduce out-of-pocket costs for medication for behavioral health care patients.
- m) Support development of local resources promoting publicly accessible behavioral health education from early childhood throughout life that integrates all aspects of social, emotional and physical health and wellness.
- n) Support development of local resources and access to legal assistance to address family needs.
- o) Support efforts to decrease the stigmatization of, and normalize, behavioral health problems and care.
- p) Eliminate barriers and disparities for providing necessary behavioral health care services for all populations, including those with disabilities, those whose primary language is not English, and those of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.
- q) Support effective implementation of evidence-based best practices and support research in behavioral health care.
- r) Support evaluation of health care providers' performance through measurement processes to assess effectiveness and improvement where needed.

s) Support full implementation and monitoring of Laura's Law, as well as other programs and initiatives at the state and local levels, which protect availability of care.

t) Support Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as other programs and initiatives at the federal level, which protect and enhance patients' rights and availability of care.

u) Promote and support programs and studies that advocate on behalf of children and those in the criminal justice system who are mentally ill.

Mental health Care: Adopted: 1970 (H) Consensus: 1990 (EA)
Updated: 1974 (H) Updated: 2000 (EA) Updated: 2005 (EA)
Updated: 2017 (EA)

LIBRARY SERVICES

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports a free public library system that meets the informational, educational, technological, recreational and legal research needs of all residents and that is financed with long-term, assured, stable and adequate public funding.

The LWVEA supports access by all persons to free library services/functions that educate and inform on a wide variety of issues to facilitate public participation in government decision-making and civil discourse. That includes providing residents with the necessary educational resources to improve and assist both the community and themselves for their own individual interests and for the betterment of society.

Policies to promote:

A. Measures to improve patron service:

1. Ensure library services and resources are up-to-date in technology;
2. Achieve sizable book and non-print collections which meet information needs of the public
3. Provide adequate hours of service, including evening and weekend hours, and maintain staffing levels adequate for the hours open, size of collection, and usage level;
4. Continue the use of volunteers to support staff;

5. Encourage cooperation between the public library system, colleges, and local school districts including after-school homework programs, etc.;
 6. Provide assistance to those who need special help for access to library services and information technologies;
 7. Continue to offer special programs to build a love of reading for all children;
 8. Provide literacy and life-long learning services funded by public and/or private sources, offered free for those who qualify or with a sliding scale;
 9. Encourage library facilities to be in both safe and accessible locations.
- B. Construction of new libraries and improvement and expansion of existing libraries as needed to serve population growth both within cities and in unincorporated areas.
- C. Methods for financing construction of new libraries, expansion, and/or rehabilitation of existing facilities should be a top priority;
1. A state bond issue; a National Library Services and Technology Act grant; a local tax, such as utility-user tax, parcel tax, assessments or districts' general funds;
 2. Private contributions;
 3. Consolidation of functions/systems to achieve cost effectiveness;
- D. Encourage community participation in advising and shaping library policies and services through Advisory Commissions, Friends and Foundation groups as well as other relevant and appropriate venues.
- E. Review of annual costs to operate libraries and of charges assessed to patrons for other than basic library service.

Adopted: 1981 (SL)

Consensus: 1990

(EA) Revised: 1991 (EA) Updated: 1997 (EA)

Updated: 2005 (EA)

Updated: 2015 (EA)

Updated: 2016 (EA)



BYLAWS Final Draft 1/18

For the regulation, except as otherwise provided by statute or its Articles of Incorporation, of the
League of Women Voters of the Eden Area
A California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation

ARTICLE I NAME AND FORM

Section 1. **Name.** The name of this corporation shall be the League of Women Voters of the Eden Area, consisting of the cities of Hayward and San Leandro, and the unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland, Fairview, and San Lorenzo (herein referred to as LWVEA). LWVEA is an integral part of the League of Women Voters of the United States (herein referred to as the LWVUS), the League of Women Voters of California (herein referred to as the LWVC), the Inter- League Organization of the San Francisco Bay Area (herein referred to as the LWVBA), and the Alameda County Council (herein referred to as the LWV-ACC).

Section 2. **Form.** LWVEA shall be a nonprofit public benefit corporation under the laws of the State of California.

ARTICLE II PURPOSES AND POLICY

Section 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of the LWVEA is to promote political responsibility through informed and active civic participation in government and to act on selected governmental issues.

Section 2. **Political Policy.** The LWVEA shall not support or oppose any political party or candidate.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. **Eligibility.** Any person who subscribes to the purposes and policy of the LWVEA and who pays dues as provided for in Article VII, Section 2, shall be a Member of the LWVEA (herein referred to as a "Member").

Section 2. **Types of Membership.**

- a. Voting Members. Persons at least 16 years of age who join the League and pay dues shall be voting members of the local League, LWVC, and LWWUS:
 - (1) those who live within an area of a local League may join that League or any other local League;
 - (2) those who reside outside the area of any local League may join a local League or shall be state members-at-large;
 - (3) those who have been members of the League for 50 years or more shall be life members excused from payment of dues.
[Mandated by LWWUS]
- b. Associate Members. All others who join the League shall be associate members.

Section 3. **Termination of Membership.** Membership status may be terminated as follows:

- a. A Member may voluntarily resign at any time by delivering a written notice to the President or the Secretary. Resignation shall be effective upon the date and time specified by the Member or upon receipt of such notice.
- b. Membership shall terminate upon the death of a Member.
- c. League membership terminates upon nonpayment of dues, as indicated by Article VII, Section 2. Dues.
- d. The Board may terminate a Member's membership for conduct that the Board shall deem inimical to the best interests of the LWVEA, including, without limitation, or flagrant violation of any provisions of these Bylaws, failure to satisfy membership qualifications. The Board shall give such Member fifteen (15) days prior notice of the proposed action and the reasons. The Member may submit a written statement to the Board regarding the proposed action no less than five (5) working days before the effective date of the proposed action. Prior to the effective date of the proposed action, the Board shall review any such statement submitted and shall determine the mitigating effect, if any, of the information contained therein on the proposed action.

ARTICLE IV EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Section 1. **Enumeration and Election of Executive Leadership Team.**

- a. The Members of the League Executive Leadership Team shall be a President, Secretary, and Treasurer who shall be elected by LWVEA Members at an Annual Meeting and shall take office immediately. The Immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the Board and the Executive Leadership Team. The President and Secretary

shall be elected in even-numbered years. The Treasurer shall be elected in odd-numbered years. Executive Leadership Team Members shall hold office for two (2) years or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

- b. In the event the LWVEA is unable to fill the Office of President, this section shall authorize the Executive Leadership Team to carry out the designated duties of the President(s) or refer the appointment of the interim President to the Board.
- c. The Office of the President may be held concurrently by more than one person. One of the Co-Presidents shall be designated as a “President of Record” and will sign all legal documents for the LWVEA and cast any tie-breaking votes, if necessary.

Section 2. President. The President shall preside at all General Meetings of the LWVEA and of the Board of Directors. If the President is temporarily unable to conduct a meeting, s/he may designate someone else to preside. In the absence or disability of the Treasurer, the President may sign or endorse checks, drafts, contracts, and notes. The President shall be an ex-officio member of all teams except the Nominating Team and the Financial Team and shall have such usual powers of supervision and management as may pertain to the Office of President and perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

Section 3. Succession. In the absence, disability, or death of the President, the Board shall appoint an Interim President or Presidents who shall possess all the powers and perform all the duties of the Office and who will remain in office until the next general election as designated by the Board or until otherwise removed by the Board.

Section 4. Secretary.

- a. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept, at the principal office or such other place as the Board may order, a book and electronic file of minutes of all meetings of the Board and its teams, with the time and place of holding, whether regular or special (and if special, how authorized, the notice thereof given), the names of those present, and the proceedings thereof. The Secretary shall give, or cause to be given, notice of all meetings of the Board required by these Bylaws. The Secretary shall also keep minutes of the Annual Meeting and shall sign with the President(s) all contracts and other instruments when so authorized by the Board.
- b. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be kept, at the principal office in the State of California, the original or a copy of the current LWVEA Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. The Secretary shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board.

- c. The Secretary or his/her designee shall keep minutes of each meeting of the Board and/or the Executive Leadership Team and shall submit them to the Board of Directors for approval at the next Board meeting.

Section 5. Treasurer.

- a. The Treasurer is the Chief Financial Officer of the LWVEA and shall keep and maintain adequate and correct accounts of the properties and business transactions of the LWVEA. The books of account shall be open to inspection by any Director during regular business hours or subject to an appointment outside those hours. The President shall arrange for an Annual Audit or review of the financial records.
- b. The Treasurer shall deposit all money and other valuables in the name and to the credit of the LWVEA with federally insured financial institutions designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall disburse the funds of the LWVEA as may be ordered by the Board; shall render to the President and the Directors, at each regularly scheduled Board meeting, or as shall be determined by the Board, an account of all transactions as Treasurer and of the financial condition of the LWVEA; and shall perform such other duties as may be designated by the Board. The Treasurer shall present a financial report to the Members at the Annual Meeting and a year-end financial report within one hundred and twenty (120) days of the close of the fiscal year, in accordance with Article VII, Section 6.

Section 6. Board Assistant. A Board Assistant may be appointed to perform the following duties:

- a. Attend Executive Leadership Team meetings with full voting privileges.
- b. Follow through on timely matters as requested by the president and report results thereof to the Board.

**ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Section 1. Number of Directors. The authorized number of Directors shall not be less than nine (9) nor more than fifteen (15). Any reduction in the authorized number of Directors shall not remove any Director prior to the expiration of the Director's term of office. The number of Directors includes the members of the Executive Leadership Team designated in Article IV, Section 1.

Section 2. Selection of Directors. Directors specified in Section 1 of this Article shall be elected by a majority of Members eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting. Up to four (4) Directors may be appointed by the elected Board members, not to exceed the maximum of fifteen (15) total Board Members, as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the LWVEA. Newly elected Directors shall take office immediately following the Annual Meeting.

Section 3. **Term of Office.** The Directors shall hold office for a term of one (1) year or until their successors have been elected or appointed and qualified.

Section 4. **Qualifications.** All Directors must be voting members of LWVEA.

Section 5. **Vacancies.**

- a. Subject to the provisions of Section 5226 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, any Director may resign effective upon giving written notice to the President or the Secretary of the Board. Such resignation will be effective when received unless the notice specifies a later time for such resignation. If the resignation is effective at a future time, a successor may be selected before such time to take office when the resignation becomes effective.
- b. Vacancies on the Board, including the Office of the President, shall be filled by election by a majority of the remaining Directors. Each Director so selected shall hold office until the expiration of the term of the replaced Director. A vacancy or vacancies on the Board shall be deemed to exist in case of the death, resignation, or removal of any Officer or Director, or if the authorized number of Directors be increased.
- c. The Board may declare vacant the office of a Director who has not attended three (3) consecutive meetings of the Board or who has been declared of unsound mind by a final order of court, or convicted of a felony, or been found by a final order or judgment of any court to have breached any duty arising under Article 3 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

Section 6. **Powers and Duties.**

- a. Subject to the limitations of the Articles of Incorporation, these Bylaws and California Nonprofit Corporation Law Section 5231, the activities and affairs of the LWVEA shall be conducted and all LWVEA powers shall be exercised by or under the control of the Board. The Board shall plan and direct the work necessary to carry out programs on selected governmental issues as adopted by the LWVUS Convention, the LWVC Convention, the LWVBA Convention, the LWVACC and the LWVEA Annual Meeting.
- b. Changes to LWVEA-ACC Bylaws. The LWVEA Board is authorized to instruct its representative on the LWVEA-ACC to approve or disapprove proposed changes to the Bylaws of the LWVEA-ACC.
- c. Team Duties. Each Board Member will assume Team Leadership duties as approved by the President(s).

Section 7. **Approving Formal Positions.** For LWVEA to endorse or oppose a ballot

measure, take a formal position on any issue, or endorse a position on any issue in the public arena, a seventy-five (75%) of the Directors (board members) present (both in person or electronically), shall be required.

Section 8. **Meetings of the Board.**

- a. Regular Board Meetings. There shall be at least nine (9) regular meetings of the Board annually. At their first meeting, the Board shall set the time and place for such meetings. No action taken at any regular Board meeting attended by a quorum shall be invalidated because of the failure of any director to receive any notice properly sent.
- b. Special Meetings.
 - (1) The President may call special meetings of the Board and shall call a special meeting upon written request of any two (2) members of the Executive Leadership Team or any four (4) Directors of the Board.
 - (2) Special meetings of the Board shall be held upon four (4) days' notice by first-class mail or forty-eight (48) hours' notice given personally, by telephone, or electronically. Any such notice shall be addressed or delivered to each Director at such Director's address as it is shown upon the records of the LWVEA or as may have been given to the LWVEA by the Director for purposes of notice or, if such address is not shown on such records or is not readily ascertainable, at the place in which the meeting of the directors is regularly held.
- c. Quorum.
 - (1) A majority of the Directors then in office constitutes a quorum of the Board for the transaction of business, except to adjourn as provided in Section 9 of Article V. Every act or decision done or made by a majority of the Directors present at a meeting and duly held, at which a quorum is present, shall be regarded as the action of the Board, unless a greater number be required by law or by these Bylaws. However, no action can be taken without the required quorum.
 - (2) A meeting at which a quorum is initially present may continue to transact business even if Directors withdraw if any action taken is approved by at least a majority of the quorum required for the meeting.
- d. Notice. Notice by mail shall be deemed to have been given at the time a written notice is deposited in the United States mail or electronically delivered to the recipient. Oral notice shall be deemed to have been given at the time it is communicated, in person, by telephone, or electronically to the recipient or to a person at the office of the recipient who the person giving the notice has reason to believe will promptly communicate it to the intended receiver.

Section 9. **Participation in Meetings by Electronic Conferencing.** Members of the Board may participate in a meeting through use of conference telephone or other communications equipment, so long as all members participating in such meeting can hear and speak to one another, or otherwise communicate with one another on an accessible basis such as sign language or a TDD. Notice, quorum, and other requirements for the conduct of meetings shall apply.

Section 10. **Adjournment.** A majority of the Directors present, whether or not a quorum is present, may adjourn any directors' meeting to another time and place if the meeting is adjourned for more than twenty-four (24) hours' notice of any adjournment to another time or place shall be given prior to the time of the adjourned meeting to the directors who were not present at the time of the adjournment.

Section 11. **Action Without Meeting.** Directors may take action between meetings by mail or an email ballot when necessary, provided that notice of the proposed action sets forth the proposed action, provides the opportunity to specify approval or disapproval of the proposal, and allows for a reasonable time in which to return the ballot. Notice, quorum and other requirements for the conduct of meetings shall apply. Ballots shall be filed with a report of the action and shall be a part of the minutes of the next meeting of the Board of Directors.

Section 12. **Rights of Inspection.** Every Director shall have absolute rights at a reasonable time to inspect and copy all books, records, and documents of every kind and to inspect the physical properties of the corporation.

ARTICLE VI TEAMS

Section 1. **Appointment of Teams.** The Board, by a majority vote of the Executive Leadership Team and Directors in office, may create one (1) or more committees, each consisting of one (1) Board Member as Team Leader, two (2) or more voting members and their alternates.

Section 2. **Team Structure.** The Board shall annually establish teams as needed and shall, at a minimum, include these standing teams:

- a. Membership/Outreach
- b. Program Planning
- c. Finance
- d. Budget
- e. Annual Financial Review or Audit
- f. Voter Services
- g. Nominations

Section 3. Powers. The Board may delegate to such teams any of the authority of the Board except with respect to the following:

- a. The approval of any action for which the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law also requires approval of the Members or approval of a majority of all Members.
- b. The filling of vacancies on the Board or on any team that has the authority to act on behalf of the Board.
- c. The fixing of compensation of the Directors for serving on the Board or on any team.
- d. The amendment or repeal of Bylaws or the adoption of new Bylaws.
- e. The amendment or repeal of any resolution of the Board, which by its express terms is not amendable or cannot be repealed.
- f. The appointment of other Board teams or the Members thereof.
- g. The expenditure of LWVEA funds.
- h. The approval of any self-dealing transaction, as such transactions are defined in Section 5233(a) of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

Section 4. Executive Leadership Team.

- a. The Members of the League Executive Leadership Team shall be a President(s), Secretary, and Treasurer who shall be elected by LWVEA Members at an Annual Meeting and shall take office immediately. The Immediate Past President shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the Board and the Executive Leadership Team. The Board Assistant, if appointed, shall be a voting member of the Executive Leadership Team
Duties of the Executive Leadership Team shall be as follows:
 - (1) Coordinate the League
 - (2) Establish agenda topics for League meetings
 - (3) Assure adherence to League policies and procedures
 - (4) Provide liaison, leadership, guidance, and technical assistance to other teams
 - (5) Lead the LWVEA in the development and implementation of programs and priorities for the year
- b. The Executive Leadership Team shall make decisions that require action between meetings of the Board of Directors and perform other duties as necessary. The minutes of the Executive Leadership Team Meetings shall be presented to the Board at its next meeting for ratification and be included in the minutes of the Board.

Section 5. **Reimbursements.** Directors and Team Members may receive reimbursement for expenses as may be fixed or determined by the Board with prior approval.

ARTICLE VII FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. **Fiscal Year.** The fiscal year of the LWVEA shall be from July 1 to June 30.

Section 2. **Dues.** Annual Dues shall be determined by the Board and approved by the LWVEA Members at their Annual Meeting by a majority vote of the LWVEA members present and voting. Dues shall be payable by each member annually. Members will be invoiced prior to July 1. Any Member who fails to pay dues by December 31 may be dropped from the membership rolls. Life members shall be exempt from payment of dues. New Members paying dues after January 1 shall be considered current members in good standing, but their dues shall be applied to the next year.

Section 3. **Annual Budget Team.**

- a. **Composition.** The Budget Team shall be composed of the Treasurer and at least two (2) members nominated by the President and appointed by the Board. The Treasurer shall not be eligible to serve as Chair.
- b. **Duties.** The Budget Team shall prepare an annual budget for the LWVEA and shall submit it to the Board for input and approval at least sixty (60) days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 4. **Budget.** At its Annual Meeting, the Board shall submit to the membership for adoption by majority vote a balanced budget for the ensuing year that shall provide for the support of LWVEA. A copy of the proposed budget shall be sent to each member at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual Meeting.

Section 5. **Annual Financial or Audit Review.** The Annual Financial Review, arranged by the President in Article IV, Section 5, shall be conducted following the close of the Fiscal Year. The Financial Review results shall be reported to the Board for their action no later than ninety (90) days following the end of the Fiscal Year.

Section 6. **Fiscal Report.** The Board shall send Members an annual financial report not later than ninety (90) days following the close of the Fiscal Year. The report shall contain the following information:

- a. The assets and liabilities, including the trust funds, of the LWVEA as of the end of the Fiscal Year.

- b. The principal changes in assets and liabilities, including trust funds, during the Fiscal Year.
- c. The revenue or receipts of the LWVEA, both unrestricted and restricted to particular purposes, for the Fiscal Year.
- d. The expenses or disbursements of the League, for both general and restricted purposes, during the Fiscal Year.
- e. A copy of any report of independent accountants, or, if there is no such report, the certificate of an authorized officer of the LWVEA that such statements were prepared without audit from the books and records of the LWVEA.

Section 7. Report on Transactions with Interested Persons.

- a. Within ninety (90) days of the end of the LWVEA's Fiscal Year, the Board shall send to the LWVEA Members a report as defined in the relevant section of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation law of any transaction in which the LWVEA was a party and in which any Officer or Director of the League had a direct or indirect material financial interest.
- b. The report shall briefly describe the following:
 - (1) Any covered transaction during the previous fiscal year involving more than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000), or which was one of numerous covered transactions in which the same interested person had a direct or indirect material financial interest and which transactions in the aggregate involved more than forty thousand dollars (\$40,000).
 - (2) The names of the interested persons involved in such transactions, stating such person's relationship to the LWVEA, the nature of such person's interest in the transaction, and, where practicable, the amount of such interest, provided that in the case of a transaction with a partnership of which such person is a partner, only the interest of the partnership need be stated.
- c. No such report need be sent if no transactions of the type occurred during the Fiscal Year.

Section 8. Indemnification. The League is empowered to indemnify its Executive Leadership Team, Directors, and agents to the extent provided, and within the limitations imposed, by the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law.

Section 9. Distribution of Funds on Dissolution. In the event of dissolution of LWVEA for any cause, all money and securities that may at the time be owned by or under the absolute control of LWVEA shall be paid to LWVC. All other property of whatsoever nature, whether real, personal, or mixed, which may at the time be owned by or under the control of LWVEA, shall be disposed of by

any officer or employee of the organization having possession of same to such person, organization or corporation, for such public, charitable or educational uses and purposes as may be designated by the Board.

ARTICLE VIII OTHER PROVISIONS

Section 1. **Endorsement of Documents; Contracts.** Subject to the provisions of applicable law, any note, mortgage, evidence of indebtedness, contract, conveyance or other instrument in writing and any assignment or endorsement thereof executed or entered into between the LWVEA and any other person, when signed by the President and any other of the LWVEA Executive Leadership Team members, shall be valid and binding on the LWVEA in the absence of actual knowledge on the part of the other person that the signing Executive Leadership Team member had no authority to execute the same. Any such instruments may be signed by any other person or persons and in such manner as from time to time shall be determined by the Board, and, unless so authorized by the Board, no team member, agent or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the LWVEA by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or amount.

Section 2. **Representation of Shares of Other Corporations.** The President or any other Executive Leadership Team member authorized by the Board or the President are each authorized to vote, represent, and exercise on behalf of the LWVEA all rights incident to all shares of any other corporation or corporations standing in the name of the LWVEA. The authority herein granted may be exercised either by any such officer in person or by any other person authorized so to do by proxy or power of attorney duly executed by said Officer.

Section 3. **Construction and Definitions.** Unless the context otherwise requires, the general provisions, rules of construction, and definitions contained in the General Provisions of the California Nonprofit Corporation Law and in the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law shall govern the construction of these Bylaws.

ARTICLE IX - MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AND VOTING RIGHTS

Section 1. **Membership Meetings.** There shall be at least three (3) General Meetings of the LWVEA Members each year, one of which shall be the Annual Meeting. Time and place shall be determined by the Board.

Section 2. **Annual Meeting.** An Annual Meeting of LWVEA Members shall be held

between May 1 and June 30, the exact date to be determined by the Board. At the Annual Meeting, the LWVEA Members shall perform the following duties:

- a. Adopt a local program for the ensuing year.
- b. Elect Directors, Executive Leadership Team Members, and LWVEA Members to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- c. Adopt a balanced budget.
- d. Transact such other business as may properly come before it; however, if less than one-third (1/3) of the voting membership is present, action may be taken only on business contained in the Annual Meeting Kit.

Section 3. Voting. Each Voting Member shall be entitled to one vote only at any meeting of LWVEA Members. Absentee or proxy voting shall not be permitted. All elections for Directors must be by ballot upon the written demand made by a Member at the Annual Meeting and before the voting begins. In the election of the Directors and Executive Leadership Team Members, the candidates receiving the highest number of votes of those Members voting are elected. In the event of a tie, the "President of Record" will cast any tie-breaking votes, per Article IV, Section 1c.

Section 4. Quorum. A quorum for the Annual Meeting of LWVEA members and for any meeting in which Members are entitled to vote shall consist of ten (10) percent of the voting Members.

Section 5. Notice of Annual Meeting.

- a. Written notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to each LWVEA Member not less than thirty (30) days nor more than ninety (90) days before the date of the Annual Meeting by first class mail or email. Such notice shall state the place, date, and hour of the meeting and the general nature of the business to be transacted.
- b. The notice shall also include the names of those who are nominees for the Executive Leadership Team and Directors and names of current Nominating Team Members and proposed Nominating Team Members at the time the notice is sent.
- c. All notices required by law or these Bylaws may be given by any one of the following methods as determined by the Board:
 - (1) By using first class mail, such notice enclosed in stamped envelope addressed to the last known address of the LWVEA Member as shown by the records of the LWVEA; or
 - (2) By publishing such notice in the newsletter that is the official publication of the LWVEA and by mailing or emailing a copy to those having email to such LWVEA member; or

- (3) By electronic email; or
- (4) By any other method provided by these Bylaws or determined by the Board in accordance with the applicable law

d. The Notice of the Annual Meeting shall include a current year-to-date financial record and an accounting of assets and liabilities.

Section 6. Special Meetings. The Board or the President may call Special Meetings of Members, and five (5%) percent or more of the members may call a Special Meeting to remove directors and to elect their replacement.

Section 7. Record Date. Three (3) Members of the Board or the President(s) may fix, in advance, a record date for the determination of the Members entitled to notice of any Annual Meeting or entitled to exercise any rights in respect of any lawful action. The record date so fixed shall not be more than sixty (60) days nor less than ten (10) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting, nor more than sixty (60) days prior to any other action. When a record date is so fixed, only LWVEA Members of record on that date are entitled to notice, to vote, or to exercise the rights for which the record date was fixed. If no record date is fixed by the Board, the record date shall be thirty (30) days prior to the date of the Annual Meeting.

Section 8. Inspection of Corporate Records. Subject to Sections 6330, 6331, and 6332 of the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law, LWVEA Voting Members may do any or all of the following as defined in items a. through d. below for a purpose reasonably related to such interest as an LWVEA member:

- a. Inspect and copy the record of all the names, addresses, and voting rights of LWVEA Voting Members at reasonable times, upon five (5) business days prior written demand upon LWVEA, which shall state the purpose for which the inspection rights are requested; or
- b. Obtain from the Secretary, upon written demand and tender of actual charges, a list of the names, addresses, and voting rights of those Members entitled to vote for the election of Directors, as of the most recent record date for which it has been compiled or as of a date specified by the Member subsequent to the date of demand. The demand shall state the purpose for which the list is requested. The Secretary shall make the list available on or before the later of ten (10) business days after the demand is received or after the date specified therein as the date as of which the list is to be compiled.
- c. The LWVEA may, within ten (10) business days after receiving a demand, as set forth above in subparagraph a. or b. of this Section, deliver to the person(s) making the demand a written offer of an alternative method of achieving the purpose identified in said demand without providing access to or a copy of the list. Any rejection of the LWVEA's offer shall be in writing and shall indicate the reasons the alternative proposed by the LWVEA does not meet the purpose of the demand made pursuant to

subparagraph a. or b. of this Section.

- d. The accounting books and records and minutes of proceedings of the LWVEA Members and the Board and Committees of the Board shall be open to inspection upon written demand of any Voting Member at any reasonable time for a purpose reasonably related to such person's interests as a Voting Member.

Section 9. **Inspection of Articles and Bylaws.** LWVEA shall keep in its principal office in the State of California, or in the office of the President or Secretary, the original or a copy of its Articles and of these Bylaws as amended to date, which shall be open to inspection by LWVEA Members, at all reasonable times.

ARTICLE X NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

Section 1. Nominating Team

- a. The Nominating Team shall consist of three (3) Voting Members, two (2) of whom shall be Directors and one (1) member of whom shall not be a member of the Board. The current Nominating Committee shall make nominations for these Offices. Further nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.
- b. Nominating Team Members shall hold office for a term of one (1) year or until successors are elected and qualified. The Board shall fill any vacancy occurring in the Nominating Team.
- c. The President of LWVEA shall send the name and contact information of the Nominating Team Chairman to the Members. It shall be the duty of the Nominating Team to solicit suggestions from Members for nominations for each vacant position.

Section 2. **Suggestions by Members.** Any Member may send suggestions to the Nominating Team.

Section 3. Report of the Nominating Team and Nominations from the Floor.

The report of the Nominating Team of the nominations for Officers, Directors, and the one (1) Member of the succeeding Nominating Team shall be sent to the Members thirty (30) days before the date of the Annual Meeting. The report of the Nominating Team shall be presented at the Annual Meeting. Immediately following the presentation of this report, Members may make nominations from the floor, provided that the consent of the nominee shall have been secured.

Section 4. **Election.** The President shall appoint an Election Team at the Annual Meeting if there is more than one person nominated for a position on the

Board. The Election Team shall oversee the election, which shall be by written ballot. If there is but one (1) nominee for each office, the election shall be by voice vote. A majority vote of those Members present and qualified to vote and voting shall constitute an election.

ARTICLE XI PROGRAM

Section 1. **Principles.** The governmental principles, as adopted by the LWVUS Convention and supported by LWVEA, constitute the authorization for the adoption of Program.

Section 2. **Program.** The program of LWVEA shall consist of the following:

- a. Action to implement the Principles.
- b. Enacting those local governmental issues chosen for concerted study and action.

Section 3. **Discussion Meetings.** There shall be opportunities throughout the year for Members to discuss program, develop consensus, and receive information about LWVEA activities. Time and place of these meetings shall be determined by the Board.

Section 4. **Adoption of the Program.** The program is adopted according to the following procedures:

- a. Voting Members may make recommendations to the Board at least at one (1) Board Meeting prior or sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting, whichever is later.
- b. The Board shall consider these recommendations and formulate a proposed program that, together with a list of non-recommended items, shall be sent to the Members at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting.
- c. A majority vote of Voting Members present and voting shall be required for the adoption of the Program recommended by the Board.
- e. Any suggestion for the Program submitted to the Board, but not recommended by the Board, may be adopted by the Annual Meeting, provided consideration is approved by a majority vote and the proposal for adoption receives a three-fifths (3/5) vote.
- f. Changes in Program, in the case of altered conditions, may be made provided that information concerning the proposed changes has been sent to Members at least fourteen (14) days prior to General Meeting, at which the changes are discussed and acted upon.

Section 5. **Member Action.** A member may act in the name of LWVEA only when authorized to do so by the appropriate Board of Directors and only in conformity with, and not contrary to, positions of LWVEA, LWVUS, LWVC, LWVBA, and LWV-ACC.

ARTICLE XII CONVENTIONS AND COUNCILS

Section 1. **LWVUS Convention.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to LWVUS, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted LWVEA under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVUS.

Section 2. **LWVC Convention.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWVC, shall select delegates to that convention in the number allotted the LWVEA under the provisions of the Bylaws of the LWVC.

Section 3. **LWVC Council.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the Presidents must be sent to LWVC, shall name the President and/or the alternate to that Council, under the provisions of the LWVC Bylaws.

Section 4. **LWVBA Convention.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of delegates must be sent to the LWVBA, shall select delegates to the Convention in the number allotted to the LWVEA under the provisions of the LWVBA Bylaws.

Section 5. **LWVBA Council.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the names of the presidents must be sent to the LWVBA, shall name the President or the alternate to that Council under the provisions of the LWVBA Bylaws.

Section 6. **LWV-ACC.** The Board, at a meeting before the date on which the name of the President must be sent to the LWV-ACC, shall name the President or an alternate who shall represent LWVEA at LWV-ACC.

ARTICLE XIII PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1. **Parliamentary Authority.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, current edition, shall govern the LWVEA in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

Section 1. **Proposed Amendments.** Any Voting Member may submit amendments to these Bylaws to the Board at least sixty (60) days prior to the Annual Meeting. All proposed amendments shall be sent to the membership at least

thirty (30) days before the Annual Meeting. The failure of any member to receive such notice shall not invalidate the amendments to the Bylaws.

Section 2. **Adoption.** These Bylaws may be amended at the Annual Meeting by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of Voting Members present and voting.

Section 3. **Effective Date.** These Bylaws shall become effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED: April 1957;

Amended May 1989;

Amended May 1993;

Amended May 2002;

Amended June 2003;

Amended June 2007;

Amended June 2009;

Amended March 2018

Signed: _____ Penny Peck

Date: June 2, 2018

Secretary