



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol.61 #3 *Political Responsibility through Informed and Active Participation* March 2018

LETTER FROM THE STATE LEAGUE (LWVC)

LWVEA Members,

We're engaged in the fight of a generation.

This November, voters will finally have the opportunity to reform Prop. 13—closing the corporate loophole that has allowed big business to pocket billions of dollars annually and restoring that funding to our local communities.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will provide up to \$10 billion every year in new funding for schools, health clinics, local services, and infrastructure.

Our measure received title and summary from the Attorney General recently. Now we need your help to gather signatures and get it on the ballot!

Reforming Prop. 13 is the California League's highest priority this year—and we can't win this fight without you!

How can you help? [Fill out our participation survey](#) and volunteer to:

- gather signatures
- secure organization and association endorsements
- help your local League reach out to elected officials

And if you can, please donate to support our campaign.

Sincerely,

Helen L. Hutchison
President, LWVC

CO-PRESIDENTS' REPORT

Aiwa Zelinsky and Joanne Young



Promote a Safe World for All: Gun Control Policy

On the afternoon of February 14, 2018, a mass shooting occurred at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. Seventeen people were killed and fourteen more were taken to hospitals, making it one of the world's deadliest school massacres. Two days after the shooting, the students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School used their social media power and invoked #NeverAgain

(<https://twitter.com/hashtag/neveragain>)

to campaign for change in wake of the shooting. #NeverAgain has become a nationwide phenomenon and is becoming the kind of campaign to call on lawmakers and the nation for a change in gun control policy. A nationwide rally for change of gun control policy is planned for March 24.

In the wake of this tragedy, the debate on gun control policy once again was pushed to the top of the policy agenda for lawmakers and the whole nation. Here we'd like to share with you once again the League of Women Voters' position on gun control policy.

LWVUS has adopted an extremely strong and clear position statement in favor of reasonable regulation of firearms, including a specific reference to licensing procedures:

- The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens.
- The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens.
- The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.
- The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to cover the cost of education and verification.
- The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials," enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.
(<http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/book/gun-control>)

The League of Women Voters works nationally and at the state and local level for regulation of guns. The proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons is a major health and safety threat to all of us, both in California and nationally. As Pam Goodman, president of the League of Women Voters of Florida stated that it is not an acceptable response to the mass shooting by doing nothing and it is a public safety matter. Let's unite together and work hard to call for stricter gun laws and to make this world a safer place for all!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR COUNTING PHOA BALLOTS

As you know, the Palomares Homeowners Association election process is underway for their 2018 Board of Directors.

Ballots are steadily coming in and must be postmarked no later than the March 6, 2018 deadline. PHOA Board of Directors meeting convenes at 7:00 p.m. on March 13 for the purpose of opening ballot envelopes and tabulating the votes. If a quorum is not met by the 3/6 deadline, the meeting for opening and tallying ballots will be rescheduled for 3/20 at 7:00 p.m.

There are five candidates for three seats. The league usually likes to have two volunteers per candidate for tallying, so we will need ten volunteers. If you are available to tally votes on 3/13 or 3/20, please contact Joanne Young.

DATE: March 20, 2018.

TIME: 6:30 p.m. to set up. PHOA board meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Palomares Hills Clubhouse: 6811 Villareal Drive, Castro Valley

LWVEA VOTER REGISTRATION CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Primary Election is June 5. Come help your League of Women Voters Eden Area register new voters. Your participation is very important and appreciated. Pick your Voter Registration (VR) site from the schedule below and let VR Chair Richard Maurer know so he can supply all participants with a LWV banner, VR forms, supplies and on-the-job training. Team up and select more than one date at same location to make your commitment, and our league's effort, more effective. At this critical time in our country's history, we stand up.

Contact Richard Maurer
prmaurer3130@att.net
or 510-314-3890.



San Leandro BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
March 7, April 4, May 2

Bayfair BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
March 14, April 18, May 9

Castro Valley BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
March 7, April 4, May 2

Hayward BART: Wed. 4-6pm,
March 14, April 18, May 9

Dublin-West BART: Thurs. 4-6pm,
March 22, April 26, May 10



Hayward Farmers Market: Sat. 9am-1pm,
March 17, April 14,
May 5

Castro Valley Farmers Market: Sat. 10am-2pm,
March 24, April 21,
May 12

Bayfair Farmers Market: Sat. 9am-1pm,
March 17, April 14,
May 5

Kaiser San Leandro Farmers Market: Wed. 10am-2pm, March 14, April 11, May 2

BOARD BRIEFS



Voter's Edge

Volunteer Needed:

Jennifer Ong has been our point person on the Voter's Edge website, inviting candidates to post their information. For the

upcoming 2018 elections, she needs an alternate and will be glad to help that person learn the ropes. Please email our Co-Presidents to volunteer; you will receive plenty of training and support.

Next Forum: Our next educational forum will be held in April on the topic of the "Make It Fair" effort to reform Prop. 13. This event is tentatively scheduled to take place at Hayward City Hall; the full details will be in the next VOTER and posted to our website and Facebook page as soon as the date, time, and place are finalized. The forum planned for March on Single-Payer health care has been postponed.

High School Voter Registration: Marian Handa and her team are working diligently to schedule voter registration opportunities at our local high schools. They are trying different types of presentations, to meet the needs of various schools and schedules, and have attended several trainings. At the Eden Area ROP, they will be providing a table to offer registration during class breaks.

Women's History Month Materials: March is "Women's History (Herstory) Month." The National Women's History Project has free and for sale material on their website. The address is: nwhp.org.

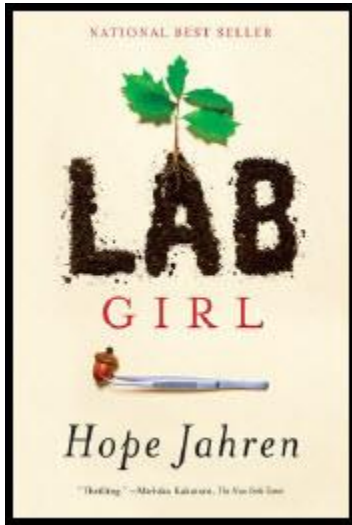
Penny Peck, LWVEA Secretary

MEMBER DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following members for their generous donations this year.

Barba, Suzanne
Batz, Ursula
Besold, Rene'
Foster, Lynda
Frick, Christine
Gertler, Evelyn
Graff, Crystal
Handa, Marian
Jameson, Minanae
Knowles, Aisha
Lamnin, Sara
Lewis, Alison & Sherman
Marciel, Doris
Mendall, Albert
Merrill, Sue
Murdach, Allison And Jo Ann
Negri, James
Norberg, Mark
Partridge, Dorothy
Pon, Kenneth
Ready, Kathleen
Schluntz, Nancy
Silva, Tom
Slater, Linda
Young, Joanne
Young, Shelia

Castro Valley READS Program – Join the LWVEA Discussion Group



The Castro Valley Library is offering its first community reading program, focusing on the book *Lab Girl* by Hope Jahren. Their first event had such an overwhelming turnout that the library ran out of free copies of the book! Our league

will be hosting our own book discussion group of *Lab Girl*, and we will be invited to the library's finale event, Fri. April 6th at 6pm (by invitation only, so sign-up!).

Any league member is welcome to join our discussion group – just email Penny Peck (Pikly@aol.com). Our discussion meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 12 at 5:30pm.

To obtain a copy of the book, enroll at the Castro Valley Library, and let them know you are part of the LWVEA discussion group. For more information, see:

<http://aclibrary.org/content/castro-valley-reads-0> .

Reflections on Bay Area League Day: Winds of Change and Regional Governance By April Anderson

Bay Area League held its League Day on February 3, 2018 at Laney College in Oakland. The time for the League Day was to take a look at regionalism and regional governance and to learn the League's role in the regional development and regional governance since 1960s.

Panelists from different regional agencies (public and NGO) presented what has been

done and accomplished and what challenges they are facing in the area of organizational cooperation and collaboration in regional governance.

There were twelve panelists including Senator Bob Wieckowski and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf who presented the importance for the need for regional government to solve the Bay Area problems in the areas of housing, transportation, climate change, land use, water, economic growth, justice and



equity.

Six members of the Eden Area LWV attended the conference and heard about the challenges and problems facing the regional governance. Here are some of the major take away from the conference by our members:

- Many of the complicated and important issues that we face have to be addressed at a regional or higher level. Transportation, housing and air quality are all interconnected and affect cities and counties within our region differently. On top of that, we have many agencies working to solve these issues from their own perspective.
- The Bay Area League's long history of early collaboration and establishment of regional governing agencies showed the important role the League has played in the regional governance. As far back as the 1940s when it was recognized by the cities in the developing nine-county Bay Area there

was a need to work together to find solutions to problems on a regional basis, the league was present and instrumental and provided a strong voice. The League supported the establishment of governing agencies ABAG, MTC, BAAQMD.

- The concept of collaboration not only can be applied at the regional governance but also can be utilized at our leagues' work. One of our members reflected that "one important take away for me was applying the concept 'regionalism' to our league membership. Instead of thinking of our membership as strictly within our own branch, we could view it as part of the region. By exploring what other local branches are working on, we may find something that is of particular interest to us (Corrine Hansen)."
- Collaboration and cooperation with the idea of regional governance is not an overnight work, but it can bring people in the region together for a more cohesive plan that all cities in the Bay Area can benefit from. Act and think like a whole logistic region.
- It is important for all agencies (public or non-public) to work on a structure of decision making process which ultimately will address issues of housing, transportation, land use, preservation, and production, etc.

"It is encouraging to see so much effort going into addressing these important issues and so necessary that everyone collaborate to come up with solutions that will improve the quality of life for all of us living in this fabulous region that we call The Bay Area" (Carolyn Darcey).

NEW SPECIES PUT ON "ENDANGERED" LIST – YOUNG VOTERS

This species—Young Voters—was not put on the list because of climate change—probably it was apathy or a dozen other excuses why only 8% of eligible Young Voters voted in the 2014 election.*

A great effort was made last year when the CA Registrar of Voters and CA Superintendent of Schools, issued a joint letter establishing "High School Voter Education Weeks." It listed a dozen ways to save the Young Voter from extinction, but it never got traction with some local school districts, teachers, parents or students.

This year, a kind of new super-hero jumped in to help—the League of Women Voters—at all levels—state and local. Their mission is to work with the schools to get 16 and 17 years old pre-registered, educate them on the issues, and encourage Young Voters to VOTE at the next and succeeding elections.

To find out more about how you can help save the Young Voter from extinction, contact Richard Maurer (prMaurer3130@att.net) and join the League in each of our school's civic engagement activities—today.

*UC Davis, CA Civic Engagement Project

Look Before You Sign Petitions

The League of Women Voters of California encourages its members and the public to be cautious during this period of circulation of initiative and referendum petitions. Voters are often asked to sign a petition "just to get it on the ballot so people can vote on it."

The League says to voters, "Your signature is valuable, perhaps even more valuable than your vote. Why? Because far fewer signatures are required to qualify a measure for the ballot than votes needed to pass it once it's on the ballot. Only sign a petition for an initiative or referendum that you believe belongs on the ballot."

The LWVC suggests six questions voters should ask themselves to help determine whether or not to sign an initiative petition:

1. Is it complex? Some issues can be decided by a simple yes or no vote. More complex issues may be better handled by thorough examination and debate in a legislative arena.

2. Is it confusing? Some initiatives are not well written or contain conflicts that may require court resolution or interpretation.

3. Does it belong in the Constitution? If an initiative amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs there. Is it a fundamental law that should be protected from change? Correcting a constitutional amendment later would also require amending the Constitution, is cumbersome and costly, and requires another vote of the people.

4. How will it be funded? Is it an “unfunded mandate” that would require the legislature to take funds from other essential programs? Consider the effect on the overall flexibility of a government budget with already limited revenue. An initiative should generally define its own revenue source, and not earmark, restrict, or obligate a specific percentage of the General Fund revenues.

5. Before you sign, ask about who is circulating the petition. Many initiative campaigns use paid signature gatherers. The only requirement in California is that the petition itself have a disclaimer that it may be circulated by a paid signature gatherer. You can ask whether the person requesting your signature is paid, and if so, how much.

6. Who is behind it? It can be difficult to find out who the real sponsors and opponents of a petition are. Sometimes there are news reports, or a Web site that can help you. Contribution and expenditure reports of committees organized for action on ballot measures are available through Cal-Access, the automated lobbying and campaign

disclosure system sponsored by the California Secretary of State’s office.

Go to this site—www.cal-access.ss.ca.gov—to read the financial reports of campaign committees.

NEW MEMBER

Victoria Jane Joyce recently moved back to her childhood home of the Bay Area after living in Southern California and working in the Entertainment and Hospitality industries. Like most Californians - Ms. Joyce was born somewhere else. A Midwest transplant, Victoria claims both Chicago and San Francisco as home towns.

Educated locally at St. Teresa’s on Potrero Hill and Woodrow Wilson High School, Victoria went back to Chicago to study at The Art Institute and Northwestern University before diving into the advertising agencies that dotted Michigan Avenue.

Political activism runs in the family as her father, John Joyce worked for George McGovern and Eugene McCarthy in the 70s inspiring Victoria to work for Senator Paul Simon and both Gary Hart campaigns in the 80s. Moving back to California in the 90s to pursue the tinsel and glitter of Hollywood marketing and talent management,

Ms Joyce worked for Jerry’s sister, Kathleen Brown’s bid for governor and also got local with the City of West Hollywood serving on the Historical Preservation Commission for 10 years.

Glad to slow down a bit and pursue passions long postponed, Victoria Joyce has settled in Livermore, California and has gladly discovered gardening and now is a regular volunteer with Fertile Ground Works growing organic produce for local food banks and kitchens.

Joining the local League of Women Voters was a natural as she sees the mission of ‘every one should vote’ to be the prime directive of all Americans!



League of Women Voters of Eden Area

P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro and
 unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley, Cherryland,
 Fairview, and San Lorenzo

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:

League of Women Voters of Eden Area Treasurer

P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____



Dues: Regular \$60

2nd member same household \$30,

Student \$25

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joanne Young, Co-President jysunrunner@gmail.com		Lynda Foster, Programs lynda.foster.goyr@statefarm.com
Aiwa Zelinsky, Co-President aiyz@comcast.net	Evelyn Cormier, Nominating ev.cormier@comcast.net	Janice Friesen, Voter Service jfriesen5490@yahoo.com
Penny Peck, Secretary Pikly@aol.com	Carolyn Darcey, Membership cdarcey@pacbell.net	Marian Handa, Youth Registration marian@roble.com
Nancy Van Huffel, Treasurer lwvea@aol.com	Rita Duncan, Programs freemyheart@yahoo.com	Richard Maurer, Voter Registration prmaurer3130@att.net
René Besold, Board Assistant rbesold@sbcglobal.net	Kimberly Eng-Tamura, Outreach cengtam@gmail.com	Jewell Spalding, Local positions jewellspalding@mac.com

CALENDAR

Sat., March 3, 2018
3:00-4:30pm

Sips & Civility Discussion

Home of Carolyn Darcey
20172 Brittany Ct., Castro Valley

Mon., March 26, 2018
5:30-7:30pm

LWVEA Board Meeting

Hayward Area Historical Society
22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

Mon., April 23, 2018
5:30-7:30pm

LWVEA Board Meeting

Hayward Area Historical Society
22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward

Fri., April 27, 2018
6:00-7:30pm

Sips & Civility Discussion

Home of Jo Loss
18003 Center St., Castro Valley

For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out www.lwvea.org