



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 51 No. 2 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Feb. 2008

WORKSHOP ON LEAGUE PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS AND ACTION ON MAJOR ISSUES

Saturday, February 9, from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Eden Medical Center, Conference Center, Room A
20103 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley
Light breakfast will be provided

Here's what the national League is now advocating on our behalf:

- Campaign Finance Reform
- Civil Liberties
- Ethics and Lobbying Reform
- Global Climate Change
- Health Care Reform

These are just five out of 38 LWWUS public policy positions. Where did these positions come from? **From local Leagues like ours!** How did they choose which issues to emphasize for education and advocacy? **We told them.**

That's what our WORKSHOP on Feb. 9 is all about--discussing positions from LWWUS (national), LWWBA (Bay Area) and our own local positions to decide whether to: (1) keep, (2) delete, or (3) update. We will also decide which of the many important current issues the League should be working on and how—education or advocacy.

Information that will be used for the workshop are contained in this VOTER and on our website www.lwea.org. Save trees—bring the information with you.

Questions? or to RSVP by Feb. 1 contact
Suzanne at 538-9678 or suzbaba@comcast.net.

Co-President's Report

Angie Reyes and I share the presidency of the Eden Area League. Angie as Hayward City Clerk now has her hands full managing the 2008 elections processes in Hayward. As of January 2008, it's my turn to take the League lead.

We all appreciate Angie's hard work and leadership within the League, and wish her well in the intense election year ahead.

Two important League meetings are right around the corner:

(1) February 9 - our annual Program Planning meeting developed by Marian Handa, who strongly encourages League members to come and speak their minds to help shape League action for the coming year;

(2) March (date TBA) meeting on "Open Government" jointly sponsored with the City Clerks' Association. This program follows our highly successful "Sunshine" meeting of two years ago.

Many thanks to Trish Taylor, who has shepherded our local Immigration Policy Study to its final conclusion on January 24. LWVEA results will go to National League along with input from many other Leagues, resulting in a national position on this subject for League at all levels.

This month's VOTER focuses on the positions we will be discussing at the February 9 forum. Included are summaries of LWVUS (national) positions, LWVBA (Bay Area) positions and our LWVEA local positions.

To read the full text, go to our website lwvea.org and follow the links or contact Suzanne Barba if you have any questions, 538-9678, suzbarba@comcast.net.

Don't forget to vote on February 5!

Alison S. Lewis

Board Briefs - January 9, 2008

- Approved a request from a Board member to be removed from the board for the next six months. Approved another Board member's request to transfer to an off-board position due to a schedule conflict between work and LWVEA board meetings.
- Received a report from the Treasurer indicating that our finances were in order. Approved moving our expiring CD to one that paid more interest.
- Received a report from the Membership Committee regarding the members who are on the "delinquent dues" list. Several invoices have been sent and each one phoned. There will be further follow up. Those who haven't paid their dues will be dropped per LWVUS rules.
- Received an update on the Immigration Consensus Forum on February 24. The video taken of the panel of speakers at the Immigration Luncheon will be shown at the beginning of the Forum.
- Discussed the education forum in March which we are co-sponsoring with the City Clerks organization. It will feature information on the public's right to know and obtain information from governmental bodies.
- Received a report on the LWVC collecting signatures to qualify a proposition on Redistricting for the November 2008 ballot.
- Approved letting our Bulk Rate permit expire since we are mailing by email.
- Received a report that San Leandro has not decided as of this date about whether to ask for an Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) format for their upcoming election.
- Next Board meeting is Feb. 13, 2008. All Board meetings are open to the public.

LWVC PUBLIC POLICY POSITION SUMMARIES

League of Women Voters

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.

Campaign Finance. Improve methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and promote citizen participation in the political process.

Selection of the President. Promote the election of the President and Vice-President by direct popular vote and work to abolish the Electoral College. 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.

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, representation, 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.

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 and expand international trade and that 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.

Agricultural 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.

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

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

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

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 and controls health care costs.

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 for 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.

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 Bay Area POSITIONS 2006-2008

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

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

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:

NATURAL RESOURCES*

CEQA MITIGATION (condensed)

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.

***HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT**

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.

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

TRANSPORTATION*SURFACE

(Updated 5/2000)

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 multi-modal, efficient, convenient, cost-effective, equitable, safe transportation planned in concert with land use and viable alternatives to reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and single-occupancy vehicle use

TRANSPORTATION * AIRPORTS Support

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

**Vertical Positions – Local Leagues are authorized to take local action on the basis of these positions.*

LWVEA – LOCAL POSITION SUMMARIES

Boards and Commissions

LWVEA 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.

Unincorporated Areas

The LWVEA 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.

Land Use and Planning

The LWVEA 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.

Parks and Recreation

The LWVEA 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.

Mental Health Care Services

The League of Women Voters of the Eden Area supports the availability of comprehensive mental health care for all residents of Alameda County, regardless of their ability to pay for these services.

Library Services

The LWVEA supports a free public library system that meets the informational, educational, technological, and recreational needs of all Eden Area 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 citizen participation in government decision-making.

LWVC PROS AND CONS AND EASY VOTER GUIDE

Our League has received a supply of LWVC Pros and Cons on the Propositions on the Feb. 5 ballot as well as the Easy Voter Guide. These helpful publications will be distributed to libraries, senior centers and other places that have requested copies. Each League member received a copy in last month's VOTER. Extra copies are available by contacting lwvea@aol.com.

The League, Governor Endorse California Voters FIRST Initiative

The LWVC has joined Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, California Common Cause, AARP, and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in launching a campaign to place a redistricting initiative on the November 2008 ballot. The California Voters FIRST initiative will reform the process for redrawing district lines for the state Senate, Assembly, and Board of Equalization following each census.

At a press conference on December 3, LWVC President Janis R. Hirohama said:

“This proposal meets all the criteria that the League of Women Voters wants to see:

- An independent citizens commission that has members who are qualified, balanced among the major parties while providing for others to participate, and representing the diversity of our state’s population
- Clear criteria, in priority order, for establishing districts — not only abiding by the U.S. Constitution and the federal Voting Rights Act, but also recognizing communities of interest and the political boundaries of cities and counties
- An open and public process.

She concluded, “League of Women Voters members around the state will work enthusiastically to help qualify this initiative and see that it is passed by the voters next November

An [overview of the initiative](#) is posted on the [LWVC Web site](#).

Contact Maggie Young myoung@lwvc.org or Linda Craig, LWC Advocacy Director at lcraig@lwvc.org if you are interested in working on the campaign.

LWVC STAND ON PROPOSITIONS. FEBRUARY 5 ELECTION

Prop 91 - Transportation Funds – Oppose

The League supports stable funding for transportation projects, but Proposition 91 is not the way to provide it. Measures like this remove the flexibility that our representatives need in crafting state budgets, especially in difficult times. Even the proponents of Prop 91 urge a NO vote on this measure, recognizing that its aims were accomplished by Prop 1A of 2006.

Prop 92 – Community Colleges; Funding, Governance, Fees Oppose

Prop 92 locks in new constitutional provisions that would mandate increased spending on K-14 education without regard to the overall state budget situation. It doesn’t provide new revenues and thus it threatens our ability to address the state’s other pressing needs. The League respects supporters’ desire for adequate, stable funding and improved governance in the community college system. However, we cannot support further restrictions on the state’s ability to fund all the programs that serve Californians, especially in our tight budget times.

Prop 93 – Limits on Legislators’ Terms in Office Neutral

This initiative, by itself, makes relatively minor changes to the structure of legislative term limits. Without a package that includes reform of the redistricting process, it does not achieve meaningful improvement of the functioning of our state legislature.

Props 94, 95, 96, 97 – Indian Gaming Compacts

- Because League positions do not cover the issues in these Referenda on Amendments to Indian Gaming Compacts, the LWVC is taking no stand on these measures.

An in-depth analysis of these ballot measures can be found at the LWVC website, www.lwvc.org.

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

Transportation Solutions to Climate Change

Friday, February 22, 2008

Nile Hall, Preservation Park
in Downtown Oakland
(12th Street and Martin Luther King Way)

**9:00 a.m. – Registration and
Refreshments**

9:30 a.m. – Program

**9:45 a.m. – Keynote: The Regional
Transportation Plan 2035
and Climate Change**

Therese McMillan, Deputy Executive
Director of Policy, Metropolitan
Transportation Commission

**10:30 a.m. – Morning Panel: Perspectives
on the Regional Plan and Funding
Options**

- Stuart Cohen, Executive Director,
Transportation and Land Use Coalition
- Robert McCleary, Executive Director,
Contra Costa Transit Authority
- Bob Allen, Transportation & Housing
Program Director, Urban Habitat

12 p.m. – Lunch

**1:00 p.m. – Afternoon Panel 1: Safe
Routes to Schools and Other Local
Solutions**

- Jim Smith, Public Information Officer, Bay
Area Air Quality Management District
- Rochelle Wheeler, Program Coordinator,
Alameda County Transportation
Improvement Authority

**1:45 p.m. – Afternoon Panel 2: Sub-
Regional Bus Service and
Pedestrian/Bicycle Options**

- Robert Raburn, East Bay Bicycle Coalition
Representative from Santa Clara Valley
Transportation Authority

To register in advance, send a check
for \$25 (or \$15 if not having lunch) payable
to the League of Women Voters of the Bay
Area to the address below, or register
online, visit www.lwvbayarea.org/BALD.

The deadline for pre-paid registration
is Wednesday, February 13, after which the
cost increases to the day-of-registration fee
of \$30.

New Regional Regulations on Wood Burning

Dee Sabiston, Air Quality Director,
LWVBA, reported on the Air District's Public
Workshop on the proposed Regulation of
Wood-Burning Devices held in Concord, one
of many held throughout the Bay Area.

The requirement that only U.S. EPA-
certified devices be installed in new
construction and remodels met with little
objection. The mandatory observation of
Spare the Air Tonight alerts, however, really
had attendees stirred up. Comments
ranged from doubts that such a thing as air
pollution exists to exempting owners of EPA-
certified devices from observing the alerts.

Real concern was also expressed over
enforcement, which will be considered
separately from the regulation. Clearly, an
important part of the regulation will have to
be education and outreach. Refer to the
website www.baaqmd.gov for more
information.

LWV Bay Area

A BOARD POSITION FOR YOU

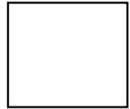
The LWVEA Board meets on the second
Wednesday of each month from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
in Hayward. We discuss issues and projects
and how to get things done.

The League's issues are your issues—
education, health care, housing, transportation,
campaign finance reform, and transparency in
government.

If you are interested in learning more
about the League and a Board position, contact
Suzanne at 538-9678 or
suzbarba@comcast.net.

League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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



IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

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

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

DATE	TIME	CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS
Jan. 17	5 to 7 p.m.	Immigration Study Review Session, Hayward City Hall, Rm 1C
Jan. 24	4 to 8:30 p.m.	Immigration Consensus Meeting, Miley's Conf. Rm. CV
Feb. 5	7 a.m. to 8 p.m.	ELECTION DAY - DON'T FORGET TO VOTE
Feb. 9	9 to 11:30 a.m.	Program Planning, Eden Medical Center, Conf Room A
Feb. 13	5 to 7 p.m.	LWVEA Board Meeting, Rm. 2A, Hayward City Hall

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