

Juvenile Justice and Dependency

Support a juvenile justice/dependency system neglect and juvenile delinquency, which 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 which 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.

Legal Aid

Support measures which will enable the judicial system of the state to provide for all citizens adequate access to legal services.

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.

To review LWVC, LWV Bay Area and local League positions, go to LWVEA website: LWVEA.org. This information is also in the LWVEA Membership Handbook, on the website.

INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM UPDATE STUDY

SAVE THE DATE: Thursday, February 21 at 6 p.m. Venue TBD

In the past few years, our League has participated in a national League study on (1) Privatization and the (2)

which works to prevent child abuse and

Federal Role in Pre-K through High School Education. The current state League update study is on the Initiative and Referendum process which we are all familiar with. We educated ourselves about the complex and sometimes tricky eleven initiatives which were on the November ballot. The state League has a position on the I & R process but many members think that may not be strong enough.

The following is a quote from a column written by Peter Schrag in the *Sacramento Bee* several days after the November election:

"We've known for years that the California initiative process, far from fulfilling the expectations of its Progressive movement fathers, has become a playpen for the same forces it was supposed to stop. But it's rarely been as obvious as it was this year when virtually all the money for and against ballot measures, approaching \$400 million at last count – about \$40 per voter – has come from millionaires and billionaires, from insurance companies, from public employee unions and from other deep-pocketed interest groups."

An example of some of the LWVC Study Consensus Questions that we will be discussing are:

1. Should California retain the citizens' Initiative and Referendum process and if so, should it be changed?
2. Should initiative sponsors be required to submit draft proposals to an official authority for an opinion on clarity of language, legality, or single subject? If so, who should perform any pre-review: legislature, judiciary, retired judges, independent citizens committee, etc.?

League of Women Voters of Eden Area

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 and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
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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.

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DATE/TIME	PLACE	EVENT
Jan. 16 5:45 p.m.	Eden Multi-Service Ctr Hayward	LWVEA Board Meeting
Jan. 19 10:30 a.m.	Castro Valley Library 3600 Norbridge Ave	Program Planning - Education and Advocacy Priorities – State & Local
Feb. 2 9 a.m.-2 p.m.	First Unitarian Church 685 14 th Street, Oakland For registration info go to: www.lwvbayarea.org/calendar.html	<i>Learn about the importance of water in California.</i> Experts will inform us about California Water Background, Governance at the federal, state and local levels, and Water Conveyance, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan and Tunnel Vision.
Feb. 20 5:45 p.m.	Eden Multi-Service Ctr Hayward	LWVEA Board Meeting
Feb. 21 6 p.m.	TBD	Initiative & Referendum Update Study

For up to date info check out LWVEA.org