



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol. 55 No. 9 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Oct. 2012

JOIN THE CASTRO VALLEY LIBRARY

REGISTRAR OF VOTERS & LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

**TO WATCH LIVE TELEVISED PRESIDENTIAL
& VICE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATES**

Come watch the four debates at the Castro Valley Library. After the debates, the League of Women Voters Eden Area will facilitate a discussion on your thoughts about what you have viewed.

- Did they give specifics or generalities about their stands on issues?
- Are their answers consistent with their previous positions?

Wednesday, October 3

Thursday, October 11

Tuesday, October 16

Monday, October 22**



****Will also be presented at the San Lorenzo Library the same night.**

The Castro Valley Library is located at 3600 Norbridge Avenue.

The San Lorenzo Library is at 395 Paseo Grande

Doors open at 5:15 p.m.,

Televised debate begins at 5:45 p.m.

Facilitated discussion 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

LWVUS DEBATE WATCHING 101

Candidate debates have a long history in American politics. At every level of government—from city council to state legislature, from Congress to President of the United States—candidates participate in debates to help voters understand who and what they stand for.

Watching debates is an important way for voters to learn more about the candidates and the issues before the election, so that they can cast an informed vote. At the same time, voters need to view debates with a careful eye to get the most information. Candidates rehearse thoroughly for debates, making it hard to get candid, spontaneous answers. Debates can emphasize form over substance, such as the candidates' appearance instead of their stands on the issues.

You can get the most out of a debate by thinking about the issues and candidates in advance, by viewing the debate with care, and by continuing to research the issues and the candidates after the debate.

Before the Debate

- Follow the campaign to learn about the candidates and their backgrounds;
- Find out what the important campaign issues are;
- Decide what issues are most important to you;
- Think about the questions you may have and the information you want to get from the debate to help you in your decision-making;
- Open your mind to new opinions/impressions of the candidate regardless of party affiliation.
- Watching the debate in a group and discussing it afterwards helps to clarify your thoughts about what was said in the debate and how the candidates performed.

MEASURE I – A LOCAL MEASURE ON YOUR BALLOT

A parcel tax for Chabot-Las Positas CCD will be on the November 6 ballot. The ballot question is: “To provide Chabot and Las Positas Community Colleges funds that cannot be taken by the state, ensure affordable quality education, prepare students for university transfer, maintain job training in healthcare, technology, public safety and other areas, uphold core academics, and preserve student support services. **Shall Chabot-Last Positas CCD levy \$28 per parcel annually for six years with Citizens' Oversight, no money for permanent salaries, and all funds spent on local colleges?”**

This measure takes two-thirds of qualified electors voting for approval.

Supporters Say: Because State budget cuts have slashed funding for our local community colleges, thousands of local students are being turned away from the classes they need to transfer to a four-year university or to prepare for their careers. It will maintain and enhance job-training programs to prepare adults for jobs in the new economy.

Supporters/Signers: State Senator Ellen Corbett; Patrick Lofitt, Member Alameda Tax Payers Association; Janet Lockhart, former Dublin Mayor and Francisco Zermeno, Hayward City Councilman and professor, Chabot College.

Opponents - At the time the LWVEA approved supporting Measure I, there was no official opposition to the Measure.

The LWVEA Board voted unanimously to support Measure I.

SAVE THE DATE

New Member Orientation, Tuesday, November 27. New members will be notified by email or classic mail.

Voter Suppression: What's going on in California?

The [voter ID](#) issue occurs more in other states but we have a related issue in California: voter intimidation. Voter intimidation is applying pressure to voters so that they either don't vote, or vote in a way they otherwise wouldn't. It can involve people talking loudly at the polls, or otherwise creating a hostile atmosphere for voters. Voter intimidation occurred in some places in California in June, and we expect there will be more in November.

The LWV California is working with [Election Protection](#) to provide accurate information to all voters, and to monitor voter intimidation actions in the state. Local Leagues are encouraged to have the contact information (1-866-OUR-VOTE or [1-866-687-8683](tel:1-866-687-8683)) for Election Protection available up to and especially on Election Day, so that you can either report possible voting issues yourself or refer people to Election Protection to report the problems themselves.

Redistricting Referendum (Prop 40) on the November Ballot from LWVC



LWVC says VOTE YES on the Referendum! "YES! We know that sounds weird. YES! We know that seems confusing. But the question on a referendum

is not intuitive and, if voters are not careful, they may vote the wrong way. A YES vote affirms the state Senate maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission and upheld by the state Supreme Court. Remember. YES—in support of the Commission. YES—to validate the open, transparent process. YES—to retain fair districts."

"Next Generation" Design for Smart Voter Debuts

A revolutionary experience is waiting for you at Smart Voter's brand new Next Generation website! You can go to the special web address of m.smartvoter.org right now to check it out. This cutting-edge update of the League's award-winning service sports a new streamlined look and an array of feature stories that changes every day.



The many enhanced features are especially helpful for the quick information needs and small touch screens of smartphone and tablet owners -- but promise to be fun and interesting for desktop and laptop computer users as well. Get together with your friends and compare the appearance of the Next Generation site – its exact layout will depend on the size of the screen and type of device each of you is using.

The Next Generation site addresses dramatic changes in the way that the public now accesses and uses information on the Internet

For this November's election, Smart Voter will be available to California voters in both its traditional format and the new Next Generation design. For future elections the state League will expand the capabilities, features and innovative content of the versatile Next Generation site.

If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding it, please email: ca-director@smartvoter.org. And click the "More" button on the new site to sign up for the Smart Voter newsletter, like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and receive our latest updates.



PROP 30 Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act YES

Proposition 30 begins to move California toward financial stability and adequate funding for all the services we want from our government; we can't continue to cut vital public services like schools and public safety. This measure will provide some much needed income from a temporary increase in income tax rates for the wealthy and a modest temporary sales tax increase. The plan is a part of a balanced approach to eliminating our deficit that includes \$8 billion in cuts, \$6 billion in new revenues, and \$2.5 billion in loans, deferrals, etc., this year. Proposition 30 also guarantees a stable source of funding for counties to pay for their new public safety responsibilities such as housing low-level prisoners and providing substance abuse treatment.

PROP 31 Government Performance and Accountability Act NO

Proposition 31 is based on good intentions and has some pieces that, taken alone, the League could support. However, Prop 31 has several significant flaws. There are questions about whether or not the provisions allow local governments to suspend state environmental requirements. What is clear is that there will be significant legal uncertainty, and years of litigation. In addition, the measure prescribes the specific manner of state and local government budgeting and puts this process into the state constitution. Prop 31 has other questionable provisions, such as establishing a significant shift of power over appropriations to the governor at times of fiscal emergency.

PROP 32 Special Exemptions Act NO

This measure is not the campaign finance reform measure its proponents say it is. Proposition 32 promises "political reform" but is really designed by special interests to help themselves and harm their opponents. It looks like a campaign finance reform measure but unfairly targets one set of large campaign donors while giving other donors unlimited power. Its ban on payroll deductions for political giving will affect unions but not corporations, and even the restriction it places on contributions to candidates by corporations is full of loophole exemptions. It does not fix the problem of money in politics; Super PACs and independent expenditure committees will continue to spend without limitation.

PROP 34 SAFE California Act YES

The SAFE California Act will replace the death penalty in California with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Convicted killers will stay in prison for the rest of their lives, eliminating the possibility of executing an innocent person in California. This will save over \$100 million every year—because the court and incarceration costs are so much higher for prisoners at risk for a death penalty. \$100 million of these savings will be allocated over the next four years to pay for increased investigation of unsolved rape and murder cases. Convicted killers will be required to work and pay restitution into a victims' compensation fund.

PROP 40 Referendum on Redistricting YES

We strongly urge a "YES" vote on this referendum on the state Senate maps drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; it asks if you want to retain the new law, or in this case, the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. So vote YES to affirm the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, YES—in support of the Commission, YES—to validate the open, transparent process, YES—to retain fair districts.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 6!

Adequate revenue to provide for the public good is critically needed. The League supports Prop 30 on this ballot as the best way to provide some relief from the endless cutting of vital government services. We see some merit in the following two measures, Props 38 and 39, but have taken a neutral position on them because of their earmarking of revenues.

PROP 38 Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs NEUTRAL

We are neutral on Our Children, Our Future, the measure supported by the California State PTA and activist Molly Munger. It provides significant funding for education and early childhood programs. In addition, for the first four years, this measure provides money to help the other underfunded government services. However, in the longer term, it earmarks essentially all the new money for education and early childhood programs. These programs definitely deserve to be adequately funded, but so do all of the government programs we support, from mental health programs to the court system to childcare.

PROP 39 Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses NEUTRAL

This measure will close a tax loophole for multistate businesses, generating revenues of about \$1 billion per year—a good thing. However, it earmarks about half the new revenue for the first five years, so that portion can only be used for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects. We are neutral on this proposition because we believe new revenue for the state should be available for all of the programs funded by state revenue—schools, law enforcement, health care, jobs programs, the judiciary system.

The League has not studied the issues in the following measures, and so has **no recommendation** on **Proposition 33** (Auto Insurance Rates), **Proposition 35** (Human Trafficking), **Proposition 36** (Three Strikes Reform), and **Proposition 37** (Genetically Engineered Foods).

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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

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Dues: Regular \$50,
 2nd member same Household \$25,
 Student \$20

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

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Web Address	Description of Election sites
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A copy of the Pros and Cons on all State Propositions will be emailed to all members soon.	
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**For up to date info on November 2012 Election forums
 check out Elections at LWVEA.org**