



SOME TIPS ON HOW TO EVALUATE THE BALLOT MEASURES

On November 7, you will be faced with voting on 13 important ballot measures. Some are complex and have lots of facts and figures. Some are controversial and people already have strong feelings about them and will vote accordingly.

Here are some things to consider while trying to make your decisions on how to vote:

- Of the 13 measures, seven are constitutional amendments. Constitutional amendments are harder to “undo” if the public has a change of mind in the future.
- Propositions 1A through 1E are from the State Legislature. Propositions 83 through 90 are “initiatives” that were placed on the ballot by people who collected enough signatures. Sometimes “special interests” collect enough signatures to put ballot measures on that benefit them. This could include corporations, unions or community organizations that you know and love.
- On bond measures, the rule of thumb is that for every dollar of bond money there is one dollar of interest to pay back within 30 years—much like your mortgage. They are not a tax, they are usually for important projects, but they do impact the state’s general fund.
- Ballot measures are not always written simply. To compound the problem, statements for or against may not always be accurate and sometimes are in conflict with each other. These are opinions of those who support or oppose and should be evaluated on that basis.
- The analysis by the Legislative Analyst’s Office or the Attorney General contains the factual information about the ballot measure.
- Sometimes people who are unsure about ballot measures, rely on the people and organizations who are listed as supporters and opponents. You will notice that sometimes there are different people from the same organization who appear as both supporters and opponents. In addition, the name of an association that appears to be one with which you are familiar, may not be related. Some organizations with appealing names pop up at campaign time trying to persuade voters one way or the other.
- Voters may want to check out who is supporting/funding the ballot measure on cal-access.ss.ca.gov/Campaign/Measures. The names of the ballot measure funders do not always appear on the ballot measure voter guides.
- The Board will be hosting a luncheon for our membership on Friday, October 5. We will be giving an in-depth analysis of the 13 propositions. It will be held at the San Leandro History Museum, 320 W Estudillo, San Leandro. See last page for more info. We have also scheduled many pros and cons presentations. Check out the website for up-to date info.

President's Report

**Eden Area's 50th Anniversary
Celebration Slated for April 13, 2007**

The news is out--excited members of our 50th Anniversary Celebration Dinner Committee are shouting with glee! Negotiations with Hayward's City Manager Jesus Armas in July culminated in the reservation of the elegant Rotunda of the beautiful City Hall in downtown Hayward for the April 13, 2007 event.

Long-time League members will recognize this locale as a most fitting venue. Eden Area League members were instrumental in drafting the amendment to the City Charter for an elected mayor and then conducting educational forums all over Hayward that culminated in a successful election. Malca Chall, LWVEA's second President, and an original member of the splinter group from Oakland League that formed the Hayward League in 1957, spearheaded that issue's coordinated effort.

Plans are underway for an outstanding program with keynoters from our Congressional representatives as well as from the National LWV Board, living-history highlights, and special souvenirs for guests. Here's your chance to welcome the League's founding Presidents and former Board Members, so mark your calendars.

Celebration Committee Chair Eleanor Parker is asking all members to call in their suggestions for enhancing this classic event. League members may contact any of these Committee Members: Suzanne Barba, Malca Chall, Angie Reyes, Alison Lewis, Julie Quayle, Alice Sarafian, Nancy Van Huffel, Joan Webber. As plans progress, additional volunteers will be called, and you will want to be a part of this enchanting evening to recognize League accomplishments.

- Discussion regarding the League's involvement in homeowner's organizations elections;
- Set date for Pro & Con Training for League members;
- Established dates for Pro & Con Presentations;
- Newsletter survey --The consensus of 25 members was to continue the newsletter in hard copy on a bi-monthly basis;
- Reported that the Sky Box Fundraiser raised a total of over \$1,600. Lois Mahaney, long time League member, was the winner;
- Sponsored a 30 minute Comcast Show for the LWVEA which presented general activity info on our League and gave history regarding the National League. A plaque was also presented to Comcast in memory of Helen Ketchum
 - Registration activities would be limited to community events rather than a sole table for more success and member participation
- Sponsor Forum for Health Insurance -- There was discussion on when this might be held in the fall, about speakers and perhaps changing the topic. There was consensus to hold the forum on November 17.
- APMC Report--It was stated that the committee is working on it first year report on its format, completion, distribution and more importantly recommendations.
- Next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, October 4 at 5 p.m. at the SLVHA. All meetings are open to the public.

**LWV ALAMEDA COUNTY COUNCIL SUPERINTENDENT STUDY
READY FOR LOCAL LEAGUE REVIEW**

In December 2004, the LWV-ACC authorized a restudy of its 1996 position on the Alameda County Office of Education and the Alameda County Board of Education. The restudy was based on the LWVC position, entitled Intergovernmental Relationship which states, "Support an efficient, effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority among the levels of government with accountability to the public."

A study committee was appointed with a representative of each of the seven Leagues in Alameda County and it has met monthly since its inception. The committee focused on, "The Efficacy of Elected vs. Appointed County Superintendent of Schools." This issue came up during the original 1996 study, but was not included in the final position.

In 53 of the 58 counties, both the County Board of Education and the County Superintendent are elected. The five counties with appointed Superintendents are: Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco, Santa Clara and Los Angeles.

County Boards of Education, under Education Code provisions, are responsible for: setting the superintendent's salary; approving the county budget; hearing appeals on expulsions and suspensions from districts; and acting as a school board for the Juvenile Court School and other community day schools operated by the county. When a County Superintendent is elected, the County Board does not have the legal authority to evaluate the elected superintendent's performance, establish work goals, or change the budget, unless both parties agree to such an arrangement.

County Superintendents are responsible for: hiring and firing of staff members; developing and presenting the county budget; operating the Juvenile Court and other county schools; ensuring the fiscal viability of the school districts in the

county; and providing other services to districts if mandated or needed. Recently, County Offices have been given additional responsibilities such as reviewing and monitoring school districts under provisions of the Williams law suit settlement.

A team of two members from the LWV-ACC study committee are prepared to assist local Leagues in studying this issue and reach consensus on questions listed below. The committee will then compile the results of those meetings and prepare an updated position which local Leagues can present at their next Program Planning meeting. Questions? Contact Lynn Groh lynnandjimgroh@earthlink.net or Eleanor Parker eliparker@sbcglobal.net who co-chair the committee.

**CONSENSUS QUESTIONS FOR
ALAMEDA FOR STUDY UPDATE**

1. Which method—elected or appointed County Superintendent of Schools (CSS)—would improve the effective and equitable balance of responsibility and authority between the County Superintendent and the County Board of Education? Why?
2. Which method—elected or appointed CSS—would improve accountability to the public? To the County Board?
3. Which method is a less expensive way to implement?
4. How would an appointed CSS affect the responsibilities and authority of the County Board of Education and would that be positive or negative?
5. Should the results of this study be used to support a statewide change in the method of selecting a CSS? Please explain.

Discussion on the consensus questions will be held November 8 at 6:30 pm at the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association. All League members are encouraged to attend.



 **YES ON PROPOSITION 1B -- Highway Safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security Bond Act of 2006** Part of the bond package developed to help rebuild California's infrastructure. This bond act would raise \$19 billion for transportation improvements.

 **YES ON PROPOSITION 1C -- Housing and Emergency Shelter Trust Fund Act of 2006.** A bond measure to finance housing-related programs, brownfield cleanup, and parks related to infill development. The League has long been concerned about providing adequate housing.

 **YES ON PROPOSITION 1D -- Education Facilities: Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities Bond Act of 2006** This bond measure would fund new school construction, modernization, relief of overcrowding, and other school infrastructure needs. The League supports improving California's educational infrastructure.

 **YES ON PROPOSITION 1E -- Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006.** This bond measure will provide funds for flood protection, levee protection in the San Francisco Delta, and storm water management. The League supports protecting our existing water supply infrastructure.

 **YES ON PROPOSITION 84 -- Water Quality, Safety and Supply. Flood Control. Natural Resource Protection. Park Improvements. Bonds. Initiative Statute** This initiative continues the League's past support of efforts to insure that California has adequate water supplies. This initiative would fund projects for safe drinking water, flood control, protection of rivers, lakes, streams, forest and wildlife conservation, and coastal protection and state parks.

 **NO ON PROPOSITION 85 -- Termination of Minor's Pregnancy. Waiting Period and Parental Notification.** Parents rightfully want to be involved in their teenagers' lives, and all parents want what is best for their children. But good family communication can't be imposed by government. Mandatory notification laws may sound good, but in the real world, they just put teenagers in danger.

 **YES ON PROPOSITION 86 -- Tax on Cigarettes.** This constitutional amendment imposes an additional 13-cent tax on each cigarette distributed and increases taxes on other tobacco products. The estimated \$2.1 billion in annual revenue will fund emergency services and nursing education for qualified hospitals, as well as tobacco-use prevention programs, research, and treatment of various tobacco-related illnesses. The League believes that the overwhelming social benefits of this measure greatly outweigh the potential downside of this earmarked tax.

 **NO ON PROPOSITION 88 -- Classroom Learning and Accountability Act. Real Property Parcel Tax.** This measure would impose a \$50 tax on each real property parcel to create the Classroom Learning and Accountability Fund in the state treasury. While the League supports equitable access to quality education, this measure violates the League's State and Local Finance positions and is not real reform. It proposes to earmark funds via a constitutional amendment without providing sufficient funding to even bring education spending up to the national average. It also involves the state for the first time in taxing property.



YES ON PROPOSITION 89 -- California Nurses Clean Money and Fair Elections Act of 2006. Public Financing of Campaigns. Corporate Tax Increase. This measure would allow candidates running for office voluntarily to receive public campaign funding by meeting certain eligibility requirements. Funding would be provided for by a 0.2 percent increase in the corporate income tax. This measure also imposes new limits on campaign contributions, and places new restrictions on contributions by corporations and lobbyists. The League vigorously supports practices which will enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and which place realistic limits on campaign contributions and expenditures.



NO ON PROPOSITION 90 -- Government Acquisition, Regulation of Private Property This measure redefines the eminent domain process in ways that will make it difficult for government to protect the environment. It will likely increase costs to taxpayers for implementation of environmental protection laws or new consumer protection laws. The measure is, in part, vaguely worded and will likely result in extensive litigation.

The League has no position on Proposition 83 (Sex Offenders, Sexually Violent Predators. Punishment, Residence Restrictions and Monitoring) and is neutral on Proposition 1A (Transportation Investment Fund) and Proposition 87 (Severance or Extraction Tax on California Oil Producers).

HEALTH CARE—SB 840 Leagues across the state have joined forces with an SB 840 sponsor, Health Care for All-California, and other coalition members to push the health insurance reform bill to the Governor's desk for passage this year. The landmark bill would reform California's health care financing system by providing affordable insurance for every Californian. The new insurance system would replace hundreds of private insurers who waste billions of health care dollars each year. Monies that health care consumers usually pay to these private insurers and government funding that already exists would be funneled into the new state insurance program. In turn, the new state insurance fund would pay for comprehensive benefits that still would be provided by California's private health care providers.

HCA has set up the One Care Now Campaign to coordinate the statewide effort to pass SB 840. The campaign has two strategies: a massive petition drive and the 365-days city campaign. League members can download the petitions from the campaign web site: OneCareNow.org. The petition drive will be an ongoing effort until a single payer insurance system is passed in California. Kits for tabling at public events are available from local HCA chapters. The 365-days city campaign will begin in August and culminate with a huge rally at the state capitol in August 2007. Coalition members are organizing various events for different cities that will be held in a different city each day for 365 days. The last city campaign before the Sacramento rally will be a major event held in the state's largest city, Los Angeles.

The OneCareNow Campaign is raising money to supply activists with the tools they need for campaign work. To this end, they are sponsoring a search engine that funds the campaign \$ 0.03 each time it is used. If 10,000 activists were to use the engine twice a day for a year, \$219,000 would be raised. League members are urged to use the search engine that is Yahoo-enhanced and to ask their friends and families to do the same. One can sign on to the Prodigy search engine and add it to his or her favorites list by going to www.hca.prodigy.com.



League of Women Voters— Eden Area and
American Association of University Women



Present the
Pros and cons
On the propositions
To be voted on
November 7th election



Friday, October 6, 2006
12:00 noon to 1:30 pm
Lunch - \$10
San Leandro History Museum
320 West Estudillo
San Leandro

FOR MORE INFORMATION: 510-562-4473 (evenings)
E-Mail: lwvea@aol.com

RSVP by October 1, 2006

Mail Checks to : LWVEA, P.O. Box 2234 Castro Valley, CA 94546
Tickets will be held at the door—No charge for those attending and not eating lunch

The League of Women Voters of CA Education Fund in partnership with LWV Eden Area

is sponsoring a half day training session on **Homeowner Association Elections**

to prepare League members to become election inspectors

Tuesday, October 3, 2006, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. *(Registration 9:30 am)*
San Lorenzo Community Hall, 377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo

Introduction by Robbie Davis, LWVC Education Fund Chair

Trainer: Glenn H Youngling, Attorney

Topics to be covered: Description of the Community Association Election, Statutory, Governing Document and other Authorities, Dramatic changes in the Voting Process, Inspector of Election Duties, Addressing Problems, Publishing Results, Storing Ballots and Contested Elections

Call 510 562-4473 (evenings) or email: LWVEA@aol.com for more info.

SB 61 BACKGROUND

A new law, [SB 61](#), requires that "common interest developments" (i.e., homeowners' groups and community associations) select an independent third party to act as an inspector for elections. The Legislature passed this law because various homeowners have alleged that some elections have been "biased" and generally quite contentious.

The measure specifies that elections for homeowners' and community associations should be conducted by mailed, secret ballot, and should involve one to three independent inspectors. The inspectors are responsible for receiving the ballots, and then counting and tabulating them in public at a noticed meeting of the respective association. The inspectors would be responsible for determining the number of memberships entitled to vote and the authenticity, validity, and effect of any proxies.

The LWVCEF and other local Leagues believe this fits very well with the League's skills and principles. Many local Leagues have experience in monitoring community elections, and the League's skills and principles in governance qualify it easily to perform the role of the independent third party as defined in the law. It gives Leagues visibility and an opportunity to earn extra income. The LWV Eden Area and LWVCEF will be marketing local Leagues as election inspectors to homeowner associations with a brochure that describes the total package of services that Leagues offer to homeowner groups, including monitoring elections, presenting pros and cons, and registration of voters.

It is important that local Leagues who choose to do this be thoroughly trained before undertaking the role of inspector. This workshop is being designed by Robbie Davis from the LWVCEF, Nancy Van Huffel, President of the Eden Area League, who has managed a 5,600+ member homeowner association for 20 years, and Glenn Youngling, homeowner association attorney with 30 years in community association law.

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

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

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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.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

DATE/TIME	ORGANIZATION & PLACE
9/13, Wednesday, @ 8 a.m.	Elected officials from special districts--Doug Siden
10/05, Thursday, Noon– 1:30pm	San Leandro Chamber Luncheon School Board Candidate Forum San Leandro Main Library, 300 Estudillo, Dave Karp Room
10/05, Thursday 6:30-8pm	Candidate Forum– All Saints Church, 22824 Second Street, Hayward Assembly 18th district: Mary Hayashi and Jill Buck and Candidates for the Eden Medical Center Board of Directors
10/6 Friday Noon-1:30pm	P & C presentation and luncheon for LWVEA & AAUW members San Leandro History Museum, 320 West Estudillo, San Leandro Call 562-4473 or email LWVEA@aol.com for more info/reservations See flyer page 6
10/10 Tuesday @ 1:00pm	Beth Shalom Temple, 642 Dolores Ave, San Leandro
10/17 Tuesday– @ Noon	Alameda Co Health Consortium, 1000 San Leandro Blvd., San Leandro
10/31 Tuesday @ Noon	Castro Valley Rotary, Willow Park Golf Course Meeting Center

Visit our website for up to date information: LWVEA.org