



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol. 53 No. 10 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Oct 2010



“Go Green: Save Money, Save the Planet”

Eden Area Energy Efficiency Fair

Saturday, October 16, 2010 • 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Hayward City Hall Plaza and Green

777 B Street Hayward • Contact # (510) 538-9678

Program Description

A half-day expo where residents and small business owners can learn how to make their home or business more energy efficient, reduce their utility costs and hear more about visionary clean energy programs and technologies.

- **Exhibits** – See and talk to exhibitors who provide valuable, world-changing concepts and technologies to go **green**, save money and save the planet. Learn about, home energy audits, conserving water and energy in landscaping, and more.

- **Presentations** – Learn which **green** projects are affordable and best for your home or business and how to finance them. Learn about rebates, grants and tax credits.



- **New technologies** – See demonstrations about new technologies from breakthrough 3D home design systems to next-generation solar roofing tiles.

- **Smart Grid Chat** – Help shape the future of clean energy distribution by exploring the new age of smart grids. Control your **PG&E** bill. Learn how to use your new Smart Meter and save.

Co-sponsored by Alameda County Community Development Agency,
Eden Area League of Women Voters, and the City of Hayward.



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

WHAT'S NEW IN LEAGUE PRESENTATIONS?

How often have we gone out into the community and presented the "pros and cons" of an election ballot? How many of us give of our time to visit the seniors and other groups to bring unbiased information on ballot issues to our voters? I think it's time this process got efficient and made use of technology and some minor innovation.

For several years now I have encouraged our State Office to tape the Pros & Cons of State ballot issues and share that with all the local leagues. For reasons unknown, they have chosen not to move forward with that idea. So, given that the propositions are very complicated this year, and last June we were unable to find many volunteers to give presentations, I decided to try something different.

Thanks to a very encouraging Board, we decided to take on the project of videotaping this information locally. The committee of five Board members, Rene, Jennifer, Jewell, Suzanne and I, wrote a script for six of the propositions. Our League members (Jennifer Ong, Rene' Besold, Jewell Spalding, Dr. Dennis Byas, Jessica Medina, Miriam Lens, and Suzanne Barba) joined by guest speakers Sherry Smith (Berkeley League), Alex Starr and Andrea Schacter (Fremont League) took the usual parts of pro and con speakers on these six propositions.

The other three propositions were a bit more contentious and complicated, so we decided to ask "experts" in the field to debate one another. Miriam Lens arranged for us to do this in the Hayward Council Chambers. We contracted with Hayward technicians to videotape, edit, and duplicate the resulting DVDs. The

end result is a one-hour DVD of all nine State Propositions.

Our first showing of the tape is this week: see election calendar for times and locations. We have at least five showings with different groups. In addition, we are arranging to have the DVD shown several times on local government television channels.

I would very much appreciate it if you will take the time to come to one of these presentations or view the television showings.

Your opinion as to whether or not this could be a valuable tool in the future is very important to me. This is your League and your Board wants to prioritize programs that you believe are worthwhile. In any event, **please don't forget to VOTE.**

Nancy Van Huffel

BOARD BRIEFS September 15, 2010

- Membership Report - Five more renewals have come in but 35 members have not yet renewed. Continued calls and emails will be made. The board also approved continuing the Angel Fund for those who have not renewed because of financial hardship.
- Pros and Cons Videotape & Equipment – The hour-long videotape on the nine state propositions for the Nov. 2 election was completed. The purchase of equipment to show the tape was authorized by the Board. The videotape will be shown to the groups that have requested a pro and con presentation.
- Eden Area Energy Efficiency Fair – A committee of League members is meeting with county representatives from

the Community Development Agency and others to plan the EAEEF for October 16. Exhibitors are now being recruited to participate.

- Candidate Forums - The League conducted a candidate's forum for the Hayward School Board on Sept. 13 and has one scheduled for the San Leandro School Board, Mayor and City Council races on Sept. 30. Another forum is scheduled in Castro Valley on Oct. 6 for the Eden Healthcare District, CV Sanitary District and EBMUD candidates.

The LWVEA Board generally meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the San Lorenzo Homes Association from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. All League meetings are open to the public.

LETTER FROM LWVC PRESIDENT JANIS HIROHAMA

Election season is in full swing! This November 2010 election is particularly busy for our [League advocacy efforts](#) because of the number of ballot measures on issues important to us—redistricting, the budget process and tax issues, and global warming. The LWVC has signed ballot arguments and/or rebuttals for four of the nine measures on the ballot, and we are prominently mentioned in the rebuttal and argument on a fifth. (We also signed the argument against the water bond that was removed from the ballot.)

Our highest priority is defeating Proposition 27. Two years ago, the League successfully fought for the creation of a citizens redistricting commission to draw districts for state legislative seats. Now Prop 27, bankrolled by politicians and their friends, aims to dismantle that hard-won reform and once again give legislators the power to draw their own districts. Vote No on 27, encourage your family and friends to do

likewise, and spread the word. The LWVC also opposes Prop 20, which would add congressional redistricting to the work of the citizens redistricting commission, as premature and flawed, although well intentioned.

Other ballot measures address state budget and tax issues that have been a major focus for the League in recent years. Passage of Prop 25 would be a big step in fixing the dysfunctional state budget process by allowing adoption of the budget by majority vote. We support Prop 24 (eliminate certain corporate tax cuts) and oppose Prop 26 (polluter protection). We also vigorously oppose Prop 23's bid to suspend California's landmark global warming law. See our ["The League Recommends"](#) for more information about our stands.

Thank you for all your hard work, whether in voter service or advocacy. On to Election Day!

WELCOME TO NEW LWVEA MEMBERS

Welcome to new League members:

- Howard Kerr, president of the Oro Loma Sanitary District Board
- Isabel Polvorosa, San Lorenzo Unified School District Board member
- Christine Wise, newly elected treasurer for the LWV Bay Area
- Cimberly Eng-Tamura, from San Leandro who just joined at a recent candidates forum.

And while we are welcoming new members, here's a reminder to present members to get your renewal in as soon as possible. Invoices were sent out in July, and reminders sent out in August. Just send in your bargain \$50 membership or \$75 for two at the same address, to Treasurer, LWVEA, P. O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, 94546. Please do it today before you forget again

LWVEA EDUCATION FORUM SUCCESSFUL

“If you don’t show up for the audition, you’ll never get the part,” is the advice a teacher gave the former State Superintendent Delaine Eastin when she was in high school. That advice has been the underpinning for many of the achievements she has made--teacher, city council member, State Assemblymembers and State Superintendent.

Ms. Eastin was the keynote speaker at the LWVEA forum on the role of the federal government in local education and the budget crisis. She said that the role of the federal government in education could be found the preamble to the Constitution. She cited the bravery of President Lincoln who established land-grant colleges during a time of national turmoil because he recognized the importance of education.

She reviewed the history of how the federal government has played an important role in educating students and how it has benefited the country and made America a world leader.

She said that budgets are statements of society’s values and that our state is undervaluing the importance of educating our children. She talked about unacceptable dropout rates and the lack of jobs for unskilled and under-educated workers.

She discussed national standards and said that multiple-choice tests are a waste of time. She wants more emphasis on whether students have mastered content. She placed a high value on pre-school education and cited high performing states that have made pre-school a part of their total educational system. She said that funding for

education should be looked at as an investment and not an expense.

During the Q & A session that followed her presentation, Eastin said that she supported local taxes passed with a 55% vote for staffing and maintaining schools. She supports not allowing corporations to take advantage of tax breaks they receive under Prop 13, and that their property should be reassessed when they sell.

She said that charter schools are public schools, but they are not regulated the way that other public schools are and not held to the same standards.

She thinks that the word “will” should be used in Educational Standards language instead of “should” to ensure compliance. She also would like to see more writing assessment and the arts back in the curriculum. She feels writing and the arts are important for brain development in children. She is also in favor of lengthening the school year and increasing, not cutting vocational classes. “Education is the key to unlock the door to a wonderful life” for our kids,” Eastin said.

LWV BAY AREA UPDATE

[BART Airport Connector: First Contract is Let](#)

The day after the LWVBA Transportation Committee sent a letter requesting a re-evaluation of the BART Airport Connector the BART Board voted on the first contract to begin the development of the BART Airport Connector.

[Bay Area League Letters Published](#)

The San Jose Mercury and the San Francisco Chronicle both published the LWV Bay Area letter opposing Proposition 23, the measure that would overturn California’s landmark Global Warming Solutions Act, Assembly Bill 32.

GO GREEN, SAVE MONEY, SAVE THE PLANET

As you know from our front-page story, the League is co-sponsoring with the county and the cities of Hayward and San Leandro, an energy efficiency fair on Saturday, October 16 at the Hayward City Hall and Green. The planning committee has been meeting weekly to ensure that residents and small business owners who attend the fair get valuable information on how to be more energy efficient—save money and reduce their carbon footprint.

We hope you will attend and bring family members and friends. We also hope you will volunteer to help us with the many small tasks necessary to make sure we meet our goal. If you are willing to help, please contact Jennifer Ong at drjenniferong@gmail.com

GREEN TIPS

Easy as 1,2, & 3 simple energy saving tips from Green America Co-op, to save 33%, 56%, and 66% of your energy depending on how far you want to go.

Level 1: Turn off lights, clean refrigerator coils, air-dry dishes, use power strips to turn off STUFF, wash clothes in cold water, and air-dry clothes by putting up an old-fashioned clothesline in the backyard!

Level 2: Insulate water heater, reduce water use, seal air leaks, and replace all bulbs, cut window heat waste, programmable thermostat, and install ceiling fans.

Level 3 is the most expensive, but in the long run will save you money:

Energy Star appliances when you need to replace your old one(s), “green” roofing, solar water heater, new energy saving windows, and include more trees in your landscape!



10/10/10 -- Global Day of Climate Action

On October 10, 2010, thousands of communities across the globe will be taking action to address climate change -- celebrating what people can do right now to make an impact, garnering media attention for climate action, and sending a strong message to decision-makers at all levels that it's time for them to do their job, too.

Help make sure your community is part of this global movement. Start by reaching out to other like-minded groups to partner with you in planning and carrying out a project or event. The more people involved in your 10/10/10 activity, the greater the impact will be -- with the media and with your elected officials -- and the broader the base will be for future climate change action in your community.

The 10/10/10 campaign is being organized by 350.org, an international movement aimed at uniting the world around solutions to the climate crisis. The focus is on the number 350 -- as in 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide (ppm CO₂), the amount that leading climate scientists say is the safe upper limit for CO₂ in our atmosphere.

VALUES SHAPING CANDIDATE SELECTION

By Dr. Jennifer Ong, VP, Program

Word of caution to those whose choices are overshadowed by priorities of race, gender or other perceived shared attributes.

I am a woman of color, a person who is frequently in the community as a voice from underrepresented segments of society and a first generation immigrant living the ongoing conflicts of acculturation and assimilation. I am, as many of us are, all too familiar with the power of voter preference based on identity politics. We relate to a candidate by race, gender or shared experiences and immediately assume that surely this person of similar physical characteristics and/or personal history appropriately reflects our own values of justice and effective government.

This is the beauty of the capacity of the human mind. We exist in similar looking packages but do not contain the exact duplicate of affected outcomes from experiences that shape our views and values about the world. This I celebrate as a challenge to the nature of humans where our tendencies persist in creating predictable packages to define that which is visible to our basic senses. All too quickly we allow our minds to create the conclusions that develop our ability to support or refute the qualifications of a candidate.

Once we allow ourselves to prioritize a person's qualification based on assumed physical and/or experiential expectations, do we then create the same behavior of exclusion and pre-judgment that we originally set out to eliminate in our quest for equal representation? This is a persistent question that has led to contentious topics such as affirmative action wherein the ideal solution

continues to elude us. Meanwhile we, as active careful voters, need to be mindful of considerations for our decisions as value based, considerate of others and dependent on experience derived expectations.

In the process of selecting your slate of qualified public servants, consider whether the candidates you are considering represent actions that have guided their decisions on policies that impact our lives in sustainable ways, benefit our communities and are considerate of the varying needs of the many. As I sort through the superficial similarities I may share with a candidate, I create a truism that guides me. Those candidates' experiences shape their values but ultimately it is their actions which define their priorities. Do I share those priorities with this candidate?

Openness in Government: Annual Secrecy Report Card

OpenTheGovernment.org, a coalition of more than 70 organizations including the LWV, works to strengthen public trust in government. It recently released its [2010 Secrecy Report Card](#), which covers the first nine months of President Obama's administration and the last six months of the Bush administration.



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 6.5 million Californians are eligible to vote but have not registered. Tell your family and friends to register and vote so they can have a say in California's future!

To vote in the November 2 General Election your voter registration form must be postmarked no later than October 18.

Voter Information Resource

Looking for unbiased information on the state propositions? Check out the *Pros & Cons* and *In Depth* information on the LWVC new website www.cavotes.org. Click on "Voter Information" to find thorough, short explanations and in-depth background on the nine initiatives on the November 2nd General Election ballot.

Looking for easy to understand, concise information on propositions and statewide candidates? Go to www.easyvoter.org and download the *Easy Voter Guide* in five languages.

Looking for one place to go to find out about everything on your ballot? Visit SmartVoter.org to learn about candidates for local, state and federal offices or local and statewide ballot measures. You can also look up your personal ballot and find your polling place. If your organization or group wants to hear the ballot measures presented by an experienced League speaker with the opportunity to ask questions, contact LWVEA@aol.com right away and schedule a pro/con presentation.



Alameda
County Need
Your Help!!
Become A Poll
Worker!!

Alameda County needs poll workers for the November 2, 2010, General Election. Poll Workers are the backbone of our election system. It's an enjoyable and rewarding way to be part of our free democratic process.

LETTER FROM LWVUS PRESIDENT ELISABETH MACNAMARA

"The League of Women Voters believes that every citizen should be protected in the right to vote... and that no person or group should suffer legal, economic or administrative discrimination." These important words are excerpted from the Principles of the LWVUS, the concepts of government to which the League subscribes.

During the ninth anniversary of the September 11 attacks many hateful voices were raised in fear and ignorance, causing undue discrimination. Just this morning, my local newspaper, the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, published a guest column from a newly naturalized citizen recounting his struggle to vote in the July primaries. Having already presented his naturalization papers in order to register in the first place, he was ordered by the Georgia Secretary of State to prove his citizenship again prior to the primary and, having done so, he was challenged once more at his polling place!

League leaders must speak loudly and clearly in support of our principles. We are, by and large, a nation of immigrants. Cultural, ethnic and religious diversity have frequently not been welcomed in the United States, but they have always made us stronger. As we honor those whose lives were taken too soon on September 11, let us dedicate ourselves to making our country stronger and safer by reminding our communities of the importance of tolerance.

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

**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 _____

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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 the public in
government and influences public
policy through education and advocacy.*

LWV EDEN AREA CANDIDATES FORUMS for Nov. 2010 Election

Oct 6 (Wednesday) with Eden Area Chamber @Castro Valley Library

6:30pm EBMUD, Ward 7, 6:50pm H.A.R.D.

7:15pm Castro Valley Sanitary District, 8:00pm Eden Township Healthcare Dist

Oct 12 (Tuesday) 6pm --Cherryland Community Association;

San Lorenzo & Hayward School Board

Oct 18 (Monday) with SLZ PTA &Eden Area Chamber

@San Lorenzo Village Homes Association

6:15pm—(H.A.R.D.)Hayward Area Recreation Park; 7pm--SLZ School Board candidates

PRO AND CON PRESENTATIONS:

Oct. 8 (Friday) 6:00pm—Hayward Democratic Club @ Westminster Church, Hayward

Oct 15 (Friday) Noon—General Public @ San Lorenzo Village Homes Association

Oct 18 (Monday) 6:30pm—South Hayward Neighborhood Collaborative

Oct 22 (Friday) Noon—National Association of Retired Federal Employees

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