



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

Vol. 57 No 8 Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation Sept 2014

CHRISTINE PELOSI -- BOOT CAMP FOR FUTURE LEADERS

Thursday, September 18, Noon to 2 p.m.

Chabot College, Performing Arts Center, 25555 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward
<http://www.chabotcollege.edu/about/campusdirections.asp>

We are kicking off our League year programs with Boot Camp for Future Leaders with keynote speaker **Christine Pelosi**. She is an attorney, community activist and author of *Campaign Boot Camp: Basic Training for Future Leaders*. This event is part of the Vote60by50 program designed to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Right Act by increasing the percentage of people voting to 60 percent.

On Sept. 17, which is Constitution Day, Chabot will be holding a Teach-in about the evolution of voting rights in the United States: From Seneca Falls to Selma. The League is co-sponsoring this event with the Chabot College Law and Democracy Program, the Chabot Student Senate, and the Office of the President of Chabot College.

Note: There is no charge to attend this event, however, campus parking is \$2 paid at kiosks located throughout the lots.

The League Invites You to an Education Forum Luncheon:

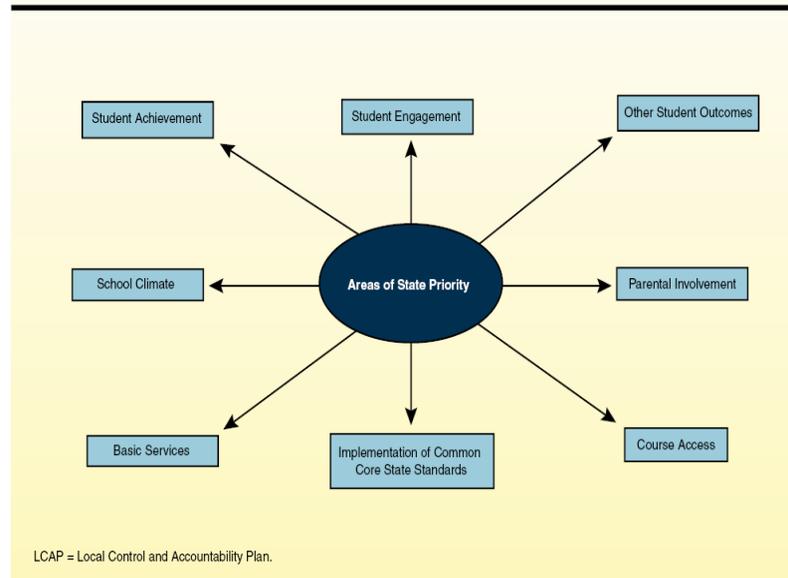
THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN OUR FOUR COMMUNITIES

**Scheduled for Oct or November,
Date to be determined**

We are inviting the superintendents from Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo to speak on how each district is implementing the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP). This new way of financing school district is historic.

According to the LCAP, parents, community members, students and teachers must be used to provide suggestions on funding decisions and help drive the budget planning process before it is adopted. This event is co-sponsored with the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Eight Areas of State Priority Must Be Addressed in LCAPs





PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Jennifer Ong

Become A Part of Your
Community-
Join LWVEA's Observer Corp

The most compelling reason for surrounding yourself with very talented and intelligent people is that discussions are never dull. This year's LWVEA Board certainly embodies this concept.

At our last Board meeting, we explored the practical protocols and applications for transparent and efficient Board meetings. Let us know how we are doing by joining us at our future Board meetings on the fourth Monday of the month from 5:45-7:45pm at the Hayward Area Historical Society office on Foothill Blvd.

Be our guest during spirited discussions of the LWVEA Board and remove dullness from your daily conversations! Once there, you will be welcomed by A.T Stephens, Executive Director of the Hayward Area Historical Society. Experience the magical location their Board has generously offered for us to complete our LWVEA Board business and indulge in history in the making of the City of Hayward.

If you are unable to join us because you are attending other community meetings in the Eden Area, why not sign up as an official member of the Observer Corps of the League of Women Voters Eden Area? Long time members, Audrey LePell and Betty Moose, have helped us revive our Observer Corps providing us written reports from their community meeting.

During our Annual Meeting, Audrey inquired about transparency and accountability at the Unincorporated Services Committee Meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month by having at least one of our LWVEA Board members attend the meetings. Afterwards, Audrey asked if she could also offer her

time as an observer. We enthusiastically accepted.

If you are interested in creating awareness about issues for the League Board and reporting to the League about issues in your community meetings to "enhance the actions, citizen information and program planning activities of the League," inform us so we can send you details about your role and responsibilities and sign you up as an official member of LWVEA Observer Corps. Your community needs YOU!

BOARD BRIEFS August 21, 2014

- **Candidate Forum** – Heard a request from Maya Para of The Great Castro Valley Debate, to co-sponsor a candidate forum with them for the CV School Board and possibly the CV Sanitary District.
- **Additions to Agenda** – Reviewed process for additions to the board meeting agenda.
- **AB 2145 Community Choice Aggregate** – Reviewed a letter opposing AB2145 and agreed to send it to the state league for approval to send it to the legislators who will be voting on the measure soon.
- **Program Committee** – Committee will be sending out a survey to members soon to encourage them to become more active and find out what time, days, and topics for league programs would make them more active.
- **Voter Service Committee** – Reviewed list of candidate forums the league will hold and which will be done by other leagues in the area. We will increase efforts to register young adults to vote.

Board meetings are open to the public. Contact lwvea@aol.com to receive an agenda.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Many of our programs and projects in the coming League year require many volunteers to ensure success. Some are very short term, some need training, but most do not. For example:

- Register voters at events and programs.
- Candidate forum question “runners,” timers, ushers.
- Ballot counters at homeowner association elections.
- Greeters at forums and luncheons to make sure guests have a great experience.
- Social media know-how to work on maintaining our website and Facebook page.



- Observers to attend meetings of various government agencies and report back to the League when action may be needed.
- Distribute voter registration forms at various designated sites in our Eden Area.

We appreciate those members who support the League by paying their dues and sending contributions, but becoming “active” members by volunteering to do short or not so short tasks are essential for meeting our mission. That mission is to *encourage the informed and active participation of the public in government.*

If you need more information about any of the jobs listed above, email Nancy at lwvea@aol.com.



NEW MEMBER ORIENTATIONS

Do you know about the League non-Partisanship Policy? Yes, but do you know HOW it applies to YOU? Can you describe the League positions on Education and Advocacy? Can you direct a new voter to a quick 'n easy, reliable place to get information on local issues and candidates?

We'll have answers to these and other questions at the LWVEA Orientation meetings in October. New members, and members who haven't been active in a while, will meet at the community room in the Castro Valley Library, where we will have a chance to meet one another, familiarize ourselves with the LWVEA handbook., and talk about our exciting programs for the year.

The CV library is centrally located, right off Redwood Road, with ample parking; and, you can choose whether you want to attend on a Wednesday, in the early evening, or a Saturday afternoon.

Please email Gail Lundholm (gala05@peoplepc.com) with your name, contact information and choice. Do it now so that the committee can plan for printed material and light refreshments.

Member Orientations

Wed., Oct. 15 from 1:00-3:00 pm
Sat., Oct. 18 from 1:00-3:00 pm

OPENING FOR LEAGUE REPRESENTATIVE ON MEASURE A OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

The League has two representatives on the important Measure A Oversight Committee. This is a 14-member county committee that reviews the expenditure of Measure A funds (1/2 cent sales tax) for the provision of health care services to low-income, uninsured children and adults in Alameda County. Measure A was passed in 2004 and was recently re-authorized and extended to 2034.

Our League is looking for someone to replace our local representative who has observed and/or been on the committee since its inception, and plans to retire from that committee.

Meetings are held once a month from 9 to 11:30 a.m. in the county Health Care Services Office, San Leandro, and are open to the public.

Interested candidates are nominated for the position by the local League, and then approved by the County League before being submitted to the Board of Supervisors for final approval.

If you are interested in finding out more about the position, contact Suzanne at suzbarba@comcast.com, or call her at 510-538-9678.



HUNGER & HOMELESS TASK FORCE UPDATE

The Task Force to End Homelessness and Hunger in Hayward continues to meet monthly. Its committees include those devoted to providing for

more access to food, housing for the homeless, toilets and showers for the homeless, and information sharing internally and with the public. I chair the Committee on Access to Food and here's a brief summary of our current efforts.

What should be the focus of our work for the rest of this year? Should we give priority to 1) increasing the food supply in the Hayward area; 2) coordinating the efforts of current food providers; 3) educating people about how to prepare nutritious and healthy meals; 4) reducing the rate of obesity; 5) other? We will have a special meeting in September to arrive at our goal for the balance of this year.

While we're doing that work we'd like to suggest three possible actions for people who may not want to attend any meetings but who want to do something about helping the hungry.

1. Help prepare a meal and serve it at the Salvation Army in Hayward by joining with some members of the Hayward Rotary Club from 2-6 PM on the fourth Sunday of each month.

2. Help package food for distribution at the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) for 3 hours on any day of the week (Sat and Sun included). Invite some friends, co-workers, other church or synagogue members, or members of any group to join in.

3. Help with clerical tasks at the ACCFB on any day for whatever amount of time you have available.

We'll supply information about other ideas for helping out in future issues of the VOTER. If you want to volunteer for any of the examples given above please contact Delmo Della-Dora d3nd@comcast.net

WHY VOTING MATTERS

(Excerpted from Vote60by50 Fact Sheet)

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) was, perhaps, the most important piece of civil rights legislation of the last century.

The struggle to pass the VRA involved tremendous sacrifices and was almost 100 years in the making. Despite these sacrifices, only 23% of eligible 18-29 year olds say they will be voting in November 2014.

Why this disengagement from voting? Almost half of those surveyed believe that politics today is no longer able to meet the challenges we face or that elected officials do not have the same priorities that they have. With young voters becoming an increasingly larger share of the electorate, this does not bode well for our democracy.

However, it is clear that young Americans care deeply about their communities and see community service as honorable and a more efficient and personal way of making change. Our challenge is to connect that passion for community service with the act of voting by reminding young voters of the value and importance of voting as a tool for social change. www.vote60by50.org

MUST READ ARTICLES FROM LEAGUE'S BAY AREA MONITOR

The latest edition of the Bay Area Monitor includes articles on the water supply, crude oil trains, cap-and-trade revenues and air quality monitoring near roadways. You can read more by going to www.bayareamonitor.org

[Taking Stock of the Water Supply](#)
By Robin Meadows

Water. It flows out of the tap every time we want, cool, clear, and clean. We take it for

granted even now, three years into one of California's driest stretches on record. But we can't go on like this for much longer — the Bay Area's water could start to run short in just two decades.

"Population growth will increase demand, and climate change will reduce the supply and increase demand," said Heather Cooley, director of the Water Program at the Pacific Institute, an Oakland-based nonprofit dedicated to sustainable resource research. [\(Read more on website\)](#)

[A Highly Flammable Situation: Crude Oil Rolls into the Region](#)

By Leslie Stewart

On May 31, 2014, some 60 people gathered at the gates of a rail yard on Richmond's industrial edge, protesting "bomb trains." Trains handled there by energy company Kinder Morgan hold crude oil, not TNT, but their contents may still be both physically and politically explosive. Stretching over a mile, a train of 100 tank cars carries 600-700 barrels of crude oil, or up to 3 million gallons. These trains represent a controversial change in both the type of crude oil supplying the region's refineries, and the way it gets here. [\(Read more on website\)](#)

[Budgetary Boost: Cap-and-Trade Revenue Tabbed for Transit](#)

By Cecily O'Connor

Fed up with a lack of affordable housing options near public transit, or long bus headways during commutes? Your frustrations may soon ease, thanks to new investments in California's aging transportation system.

The state's recently signed budget for fiscal year 2014-15 earmarks \$630 million of a total \$872 million in cap-and-trade program funds for transportation-related

projects. Accompanying legislation stipulates that, in future years, 60 percent of cap-and-trade funds will go to such projects. As a result of these developments, bus and rail operators will receive a chance to move forward with expansion plans that have been on the backburner. [\(Read more on website\)](#)

Data-Driven: Regulators Monitor Air Quality Near Roadways

By Alec MacDonald

A seemingly endless network of asphalt offers drivers the mobility to roam all across the Bay Area. But that freedom comes at the expense of others — residents stuck choking on the noxious fumes spewed out by so many passing vehicles.

Living alongside a steady stream of traffic exposes people to a variety of hazardous substances, such as particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, benzene, and formaldehyde. Epidemiological studies connect this exposure to asthma exacerbation, impaired lung function, and cardiovascular morbidity, among other alarming ailments. [\(Read more on website\)](#)

California DISCLOSE Act Coming Up for Final Assembly Vote!

SB 52, the *California DISCLOSE Act*, is scheduled to have its final Assembly vote on Saturday! If you want to stop ballot measure ads from deceiving you and other voters about who's behind them, then call your Assemblyman.

The stakes couldn't be higher as we approach the final Assembly vote. SB 52 will require its disclosures be displayed on the bottom one-third of the TV screen for a full five seconds, so viewers can't miss them. The funders must be displayed in a big contrasting font on a solid black background.

You can see more of the [details of how powerful SB 52 is and how it works here.](#)

SB 52 is scheduled to have its final Assembly vote on August 30th, with a Senate reconciliation vote quickly to follow the same day if it passes.

But though SB 52 is [endorsed by more than 400 organizations and leaders](#), it now has powerful opponents that are against SB 52's rules to require the funders that are shown on ads to be the actual original funders, not misleading front-groups.

It is up to you and your Assemblymember and Senator to stand up for the *DISCLOSE Act*. The integrity of our elections is at stake. Calling only takes a minute, but has an especially powerful impact! You can leave a message if nobody answers. Together, we will create a democracy that is truly of, by, and for the people.

Trent Lange
President, California Clean Money Action Fund - *The California Clean Money Action Fund is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(4) organization.*

California Prop 1, Water Bond

California Proposition 1, the **Water Bond** (Assembly Bill 1471), is on the [November 4, 2014 ballot](#) as a [legislatively-referred bond act](#). The measure was formerly known as **Proposition 43**.

The measure, upon voter approval, would enact the **Water Quality, Supply, and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014**. Proposal 1, if approved, would:

- Authorize \$7.12 billion in general obligation bonds for state water supply infrastructure projects, such as public water system improvements, surface and groundwater storage, drinking water protection, water recycling and advanced water treatment technology, water supply management and conveyance, wastewater treatment, drought relief,

emergency water supplies, and ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration.

- Appropriate money from the General Fund to pay off bonds.
- Require certain projects to provide matching funds from non-state sources in order to receive bond funds.

Specific spending proposals in the proposition include:

- \$520 million to improve water quality for “beneficial use,” for reducing and preventing drinking water contaminants, disadvantaged communities, and the State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund Small Community Grant Fund.
- \$1.495 billion for competitive grants for multibenefit ecosystem and watershed protection and restoration projects.
- \$810 million for expenditures on, and competitive grants and loans to, integrated regional water management plan projects.
- \$2.7 billion for water storage projects, dams and reservoirs.
- \$725 million for water recycling and advanced water treatment technology projects.
- \$900 million for competitive grants, and loans for, projects to prevent or clean up the contamination of groundwater that serves as a source of drinking water.
- \$395 million for statewide flood management projects and activities.

Gov. Jerry Brown (D) called on the legislature to replace the previous \$11.14 billion bond with a cheaper \$6 billion bond on June 25, 2014.^[3] Brown called the previous water bond "a pork-laden water bond... with a price tag beyond what's reasonable or affordable. The legislature passed the new \$7.12 billion bond on August 13, 2014.

The water bond was moved twice. Originally certified to be on the state's 2010 ballot, it was removed and placed on the 2012 ballot. On July 5, 2012, the state legislature approved a bill to take the measure off the 2012 ballot and put it on the 2014 ballot.



CANDIDATE FORUMS

As part of our voter services to our membership we will be sponsoring the following forums:

San Leandro School Boards

Castro Valley School Board

AC Transit Board

Congressional 15th District

San Lorenzo School Board

Oro Loma Sanitary District

Forum dates from now till Oct 15; check www.lwvea.org for up to date details

CURRENT FORUM DATES

Sept 3, Wed, 5:30 to 8:00pm

Castro Valley Sanitary District

Sponsored by Eden Area Chamber

Sept 16, Tuesday, 6 to 7:30pm

San Leandro City Council

7:30 to 8:30pm **San Leandro Mayor**

Location to be determined

Oct 15, Wed, Eden United Church

Hayward Unified School Board

Sept 29, Monday 6pm, Oakland City Hall

Superintendent, Al Co Office of Educ

Sponsored by Alameda County LWV

We will also be posting video tapes to our website from the following races:

Superintendent , Al Co Office of Education

CA State Senate

CA 18th Assembly District

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

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____



Dues: Regular \$50,
2nd member 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.*

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CALENDAR

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sept 18	Noon to 2 pm	Christine Pelosi – Boot Camp for Future Leaders Chabot College, Performing Arts Center (page 1)
Sept. 22	5:45 to 7:30 pm	LWVEA Board Meeting, 22380 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 2 nd floor
Oct 15 & 18	1 to 3 p.m.	Orientation for New Members Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave, CV

**For up-to-date info and specific details on events,
email: lwvea@aol.com or check out www.LWVEA.org**