



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

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CANDIDATE FORUM FOR CV SCHOOL BOARD

SAVE THE DATE. The League will be holding a Candidates Forum for those running for the Castro Valley Unified School District Board on

Monday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.
at Canyon Middle School
19600 Cull Canyon Road in room D11.

The five candidates running for three seats on the Board are: John Barbieri, Marc Crawford, Jo A. S. Loss, Kunio Okui, and Judith Radousky.

LEAGUE CALENDAR OF ELECTION EVENTS

On the last page is a partial list of LWVC Proposition Pro and Con presentations our League speakers will be doing this month. Five have been completed already and are not on the list. If you missed our Proposition Pro and Con presentation at the LWVEA Forum on September 26, you may want to attend any of those noted below—just call the contact person listed.

As you know, doing Pro and Con presentations on the State Propositions, registering voters, and conducting candidate forums are the major functions of our League and we are proud to keep up the tradition of educating and informing voters.

President's Message

The leaves begin to change colors, the excitement begins to grow as an election year is upon us. This election promises to have a very high voter turnout. There will be record numbers of new voters and many opportunities for our league to be out and about registering them. Voter Services is extremely busy with requests for registering voters, presenting pros and cons on the ballot issues and hosting debates for local elections.

Joining the bandwagon is AC Transit's new "hip hop bus" in an effort to reach young and new voters. The bus was spotted at the Castro Valley Fall Festival in early September. Baskin Robins Ice Cream joined in the effort with a voter registration campaign to promote their new Presidential Election Flavor Ice Creams "Whirl of Change" and "Straight Talk Crunch." Our League members worked with them at the San Leandro Suds and Sausage Festival registering voters on October 5. Ninety-five voters received a scoop of ice cream upon registering to vote.

The LWVC Pros and Cons Guide and Easy Voter Guide are now available. Volunteers are welcome to help deliver the hundreds of copies of both publications that give clear and concise explanations of the issues facing us on the state ballot. Pros and Cons are the League's opportunity to get out and educate the community. Training for presenting the Pros and Cons has been conducted by Suzanne Barba and she is doing a stellar job in educating our members.

Proposition 11, the redistricting reform measure has league members working diligently to get this measure passed. Helen Hutchison from the Oakland League gave a great advocacy speech on the importance of this issue. It was plain to see the problem when she held up current maps of the districts as they are drawn now. If you are interested in helping with this measure or in any other way this election season please contact me at 510-581-9326.

We have lost two very active League Members in the past few weeks, Jean Gaylord and Lois Mahaney. Both volunteered numerous hours to the League and other organizations. We shall miss them very much.

Marianne Dimick, President

Board Briefs September 10, 2008 Meeting

The Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Winnie Thompson, a longtime LWVEA member, from the Board. Winnie, we appreciate your work and will miss you.

Discussed the need for volunteers to help with voter registration with Baskin & Robbins on October 5 at the Suds and Sausage Festival in San Leandro.

LWVEA this year will have two Leaguers reach 50 years of membership in our League -- Joan Webber and Jo McClellan. Congratulations to these loyal members

We have many requests for Pros & Cons speakers. Please volunteer for this important election service that the League provides, and become an expert on statewide issues. Suzanne Barba is managing the training sessions, and Nancy Van Huffel is scheduling the events.

The Board established the Bylaws Review Committee: Chair Marian Handa, members Suzanne Barba and Pat Piras, with support from Eleanor Parker

LWVEA chose long-time league member Evelyn Cormier as its Shining Star, to be honored with Stars from other community groups at the City of Hayward Volunteer Dinner on Oct. 23.

Treasurer Pat Piras presented her report, updating progress on the audit, payments to State and National, and other financial issues

LWVEA maintains about 80 boxes of voter registration affidavits throughout the Eden Area and would love the help of anyone interested in this fundamental League mission. Please call Alison Lewis 510-538-3692 to volunteer.

A HISTORY MAKING ELECTION

(The following is excerpted from a study by the Public Policy Institute of California)

The November 4th General Election will be an historic event, regardless of your political affiliation. For the first time in American history the two major political parties are nominating leaders who have historically been left out of Presidential campaigns.

Despite the historical significance and the attention the presidential campaign is garnering, voter registration remains a problem. As of August, 2008, 25% of eligible California voters were NOT registered to vote

Age Gap Still Important

Although the 2008 presidential campaign has sparked enthusiasm among young adults, this group is still registering to vote at a much lower rate than older adults. Compared to Californians age 65 and older, a stunningly lower number of 18 to 24 year olds are registered (92% vs. 56%). Likely voter rates reveal an even greater disparity: A mere 24% of adults ages 18 to 24 are considered likely voters, while 78% of adults age 65 and older are likely to participate in elections.

Among likely voters in California, 18% are younger than 35 years old, while 41% are at least 55 years old. The older age group includes the lowest proportion of infrequent voters (18%) and those not registered to vote (11%). Over half of likely voters (54%) are college graduates, compared to 25% of infrequent voters and 16% of those not registered to vote. Three quarters (76%) of likely voters have household incomes over \$40,000 a year, compared to 31% of those not registered to vote. A substantial number of likely voters are homeowners (77%) and U.S. born (86%), while most of those who are not registered to vote are renters (65%) and immigrants (67%).

To make change happen at the local, state or federal level, people need to vote. The first step in having more people vote is to get them registered!

CONGRATULATIONS TO ANGELINA REYES



Angelina Reyes, long-time League member was feted on October 3 at the Hayward City Hall, on her retirement as City Clerk after 31 years of service

Angie received Certificates of Appreciation from Congressman Pete Stark, Senator Ellen Corbett and Assemblymember Mary Hayashi among many others.

She was also honored by the State City Clerks group and the theme that ran through all the honors was-- "if you want a good job done, give it to Angie."

Although Angie is retiring from her position as Hayward City Clerk, she is not retiring from our League—yet. She recently accepted election to the Board as Secretary and previously served as Co-President with Alison Lewis.

Before that, Angie did an outstanding job as Chair of Voter Service and was responsible for scheduling and participating in putting on Pro and Con presentations on ballot measures. She coordinated candidate forums which were televised and helped candidates get their information on SmartVoter.

At her retirement reception, Angie was surrounded by her adoring children, grandchildren, and lots of other family members who joined her friends in recounting all the wonderful things she has accomplished.

Best wishes and good luck to Angelina Reyes



Presenters (left to right) Helen Hutchinson, Marian Handa, Suzanne Barba



Interested Leaguers at the September 26th League Pro & Con Forum



IN MEMORY OF JEAN GAYLORD

Jean Gaylord, a longtime League member and political activist in Castro Valley, died recently from complications of leukemia at the age of 80.

Jean was a League member for 18 years and had the reputation of being the “go to” person if something needed to be done. She worked tirelessly at Voter Service, registering voters and participated in most League functions.



She had been involved in many Democratic Party organizations in Hayward and Castro Valley since the 1950s and was a founding member of the Castro Valley Democratic Club in 1993. She was a member of the National Women’s Political Caucus of Southern Alameda and took a prominent role in the Starr King Unitarian Church in Hayward.

“She had a clear idea of what she felt was right and what was wrong,” said husband Bill Gaylord, who married Jean 61 years ago. “If she saw an injustice she would be right there.”

The Gaylords met on the campus of San Francisco City College in the 1940s. The couple lived in Hayward in the 1950s and that was when Jean began to involve herself in local and world politics. “She had strong beliefs and was really the spark plug of the family,” Bill Gaylord said.

“Jean was a star who cared deeply for other people,” said State Senator Ellen Corbett, who presented Gaylord with an “Alameda County Democrat of the Year” award during a 2007 ceremony. “She was very unselfish, had a huge heart and was always there to help others no matter what.”

Jean retired from the Alameda County Welfare Dept. in 1982, but continued to be active in many political and service organizations until her death.

Beside her husband, Jean is survived by daughters, Laura Bingham, Leslie Reynolds, Wendy Robertson, and Vicky Popper; nine grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and her brother, David Howell.

A memorial service will be held from 2 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12, at the Five Canyons Recreation Center, 5150 Private Recreation Road in Castro Valley. Donations may be made to Hope Hospice, 6500 Dublin Blvd., Dublin 94568.

SENATOR SHEILA KEUHL'S COMMENTS ON RECENT VETO OF SB840 – SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

*(The following is excerpted from her 14th
Essay on SB840)*

On September 30, the Governor finished wielding his veto pen and, in one sweeping move, eliminated virtually every health reform measure that would have regulated the health insurance company monopoly. Health reform was not alone, bill after bill that would have benefited consumers, drivers, people who breathe, people who drink water, and just people who rely on their state government to protect them, had its throat cut.

Health Reform Vetoes -- It's important to understand that vetoes of health reform legislation have very serious consequences...because of these vetoes, there will continue to be very little regulation of the runaway health insurance market and no protections for consumers.

Universal Health Care -- Of course, everyone expected Arnold to veto SB 840, the Universal Health Care Act. His own plan, which failed to make it through the State Senate Health Committee, which I chair, would have provided a major give-away to the health insurance companies by requiring every Californian to buy health insurance or face a penalty, with no caps on premiums, except for those who make less than \$25,000 a year. He has been consistently hostile to the Medicare-like plan in SB 840 and vetoed it (for the second time) on September 30, citing a study that did not even relate to the bill.

Vetoes of bills his staff worked on with members

In addition, however, the Governor stunned most of the reform advocates by also vetoing bills his staff had been working on with authors, and which reflected portions of his own bill.

There are several examples. Let me begin with one of my own bills, SB 1440. In 2006, I brought a bill requiring health insurers to spend at least 85% of their premiums on care for their enrollees, which garnered a firestorm of opposition from the insurance industry, and failed in the Assembly.

Late in 2007, the Governor included this provision in his own bill, and, when that failed, his staff and mine worked together on a stand-alone bill. We took several amendments at his behest, all favorable to the industry, but he vetoed it anyway, as a part of his bloodbath of health reform bills.

Then he had the audacity to write a nasty veto message saying the bill was a "one-sided, piecemeal approach to healthcare reform" and add that His bill would have been a total solution. Well, it would have been a total disaster, but he's still smarting from not getting it.

Few Bills Signed but no Reform -- The Governor did sign a few incremental bills, ones that would not shake up the industry too much, and then, of course, ballyhooed them as if he had signed real health reform legislation.

Visit my website at www.sen.ca.gov/kuehl to read my previous essays.

Senator Sheila Keuhl



Remembering Lois Mahaney. . .by Eleanor Parker

Lois Mahaney, our long-time active member and friend, died Tuesday, October 7, 2008, at 7PM with daughter Susan and sons Terry and Jim beside her, as well as Rev. Nancy Schluntz former LWVEA President, dear friend of Lois' and loving pastor, and Pam Sorbet (daughter of Lois' dear friend Gloria Dehart who had travelled with her to Ashland's Shakespeare Festival for 30 years) whom Lois had designated to administer her living will directive. Lois had suffered a massive heart attack the previous day and doctors had determined that they could give her no further aid. For those of us who knew Lois since she joined the League in 1984 it is a sad occasion as we have lost not just a long-time League member, but a person who has given us important lessons in how to live actively and passionately.

The facts of her life barely cover the person: Born in Michigan in 1917 and moving to California 55 years ago, Lois is survived by sons, Terry and James, daughter Susan, grandchildren Karmen and Nolan and great grandchild Alexandra. Lois made her indelible mark in local schools as a teacher, an acknowledged leader and role model, earning the respect of Hayward elementary faculty, administration and students. Lois served 13 years as Editor of the Hayward Retired Teachers Association. Among her many awards is one she treasured ---the Volunteer Service Award for Teachers.

A special facet of Lois's character is her achievement of certification as a Tai Chi Chih teacher in 1984. She also served as Editor of their Journal of T'ai Chi Chih! "*The Vital Force*" for twelve years. This dedication is remarkable when you learn that editions included 40 pages and was diligently typed and manually laid-out before computers! Those of us privileged to enjoy her many classes at San Lorenzo Adult School and in a local park on Sundays for student practice, savored her spiritual intellect and tender loving care, gently correcting us to reflect her simple energizing movements accurately. She retired from Tai Chi Chih classes in 2004, leaving a painful void in her students' whole scheme of things.

Daughter Susan has commented that her mother was her "rock and best friend" and she felt honored to be able to be her caregiver in her last years. Susan also said that Lois "never judged folks" and "was always positive about life".

When I was President of the League in 1990, Lois served on my Board. She edited the Eden Area VOTER for six years and when I followed her in that position, she helped me lay-out each edition before taking it to the printer—also before computers. Lois joined Helen Ketchum and me when we visited local high school classes to talk about voting and register students as new voters. Lois was extremely popular, getting the students moving in Tai Chi movements.

Lois and I travelled to Washington in 1990 to the LWV National Convention. It is a time with Lois that I have always cherished. Lois was noted for her frank and honest speech, sometimes mistaken as "crusty", intimidating neophytes, but endearing herself to her friends with her warmhearted attitude. Besides League, Lois and I shared a love of physical activity, she starting each day of the conference with her Tai Chi Chih movements in the park beside the hotel, that I sometimes joined before my usual morning walks. Plans are underway for Lois' memorial service within a few weeks. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be sent to the "Scholarship Fund of the Hayward Retired Teachers Association"

LWVBA Pros and Cons

AC Transit Parcel Tax Measure, Measure VV

BACKGROUND

In November 2004 voters approved Measure BB to extend the existing \$2 a month parcel tax in support of AC Transit to 2015 and increase it to \$4 per month for that period. Annual cost since July 1, 2005 has thus been \$48 a year for each property owner.

In the fiscal year which began July 1, 2008, AC Transit faces a \$20 million budget shortfall. The price of fuel has increased by more than 55% in the past four years. Ridership is likely to grow as the cost of gas makes driving personal cars less and less attractive. The district is considering a fare increase to meet the budget shortfall.

PROPOSAL

Increase the existing parcel tax by \$4 per month for ten years (to June 30, 2019) with an independent oversight committee and all money staying local. Annual cost to each property owner would become \$96 a year.

FISCAL EFFECT

The parcel tax which is the same dollar amount for every property owner must be approved by 2/3 of the voters.

IMPACT OF A YES OR NO VOTE

A Yes vote means that each property owner will pay \$96 a year in support of AC Transit busses through June 30, 2019.

A No vote means that each property owner will continue to pay \$48 a year in support of AC Transit busses through June 30, 2015.

SUPPORTERS SAY

- AC Transit bus service benefits us all by providing transportation for those who cannot drive and those who cannot afford rising cost of gas.
- Measure VV will cost just \$4 a month, less than the cost of one gallon of gas.

OPPONENTS SAY

- It is unfair to tax each property owner, large and small, the same dollar amount.
- Fare increases are a better way to meet the rising costs of a bus system.

East Bay Regional Park Bond Measure, Measure WW

BACKGROUND

In 1988 voters Measure AA to finance \$225 million of bonds over twenty years to support the East Bay Regional Parks. In the twenty years the District has

- Added 34,000 acres of open space
- Use Measure AA funds to acquire state and federal matching funds which have doubled the money available
- Spent \$44 million in capital funds for park improvements
- Spent \$56 million for 235 accessible local parks and recreation facilities, including \$4 million for the Oakland Zoo.
- Refinanced the existing Measure AA bonds at a lower interest rate saving over \$8.5 million in present value savings.

PROPOSAL

Extends current Measure AA tax of \$10 per \$100,000 assessed valuation for twenty years. Funds will support land acquisition, new park and trail development, habitat and urban creek restoration and rehabilitation of aging park facilities.

FISCAL EFFECT

Because this is an extension of Measure AA, it would not cause a tax rate increase but rather continue the current \$10 per \$100,000 assessed valuation.

IMPACT OF A YES OR NO VOTE

A Yes vote means that the existing tax of \$10 per \$100,000 assessed valuation in support of East Bay Regional Park development will continue.

A No vote means that the existing tax of \$10 per \$100,000 assessed valuation in support of East Bay Regional Park development will cease.

SUPPORTERS SAY

Measure WW will

- Help preserve our vanishing open space, available parklands, and shoreline for the growing number of residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.
- Promote environmental sustainability. The vegetation in our parks absorbs the same amount of carbon dioxide that is produced by 1.5 million cars.

OPPONENTS SAY

- Ending a tax is a good idea.
- Fees for users would be a better way to fund the parks.

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

IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Just cut out and mail this coupon with your check to:
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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.

10/9 Thursday 6:30pm	Soroptimist meeting, Englander Pub, San Leandro	Sue Kleebauer
10/11 Saturday 1:30-3:00pm	Hayward Main Library 835 C St, Hayward angeljohnson@pacbell.net Trudy.Toll@hayward-ca.gov	Meg/Evelyn Doris, Gail
10/22 Wednesday 12 - 1 p.m.	Al Co Health Consortium, SL 1000 San Leandro Blvd., Room 200B 208- 5905, Pam.Willow@acgov.org	Contact lwvea@aol.com
	Star King Church	Evelyn & Meg
	San Leandro Employees	Shelia & Marian
	City of Hayward--Employees	Angie Reyes

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