



League of Women Voters Eden Area

V O T E R

Vol. 56 No. 10 *Political Responsibility Through Informed and Active Participation* Oct 2013

ARE LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS READY FOR NEW



STANDARDS?

You are invited to a luncheon Forum

Friday, October 4
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**San Lorenzo Village Homes
Community Hall
377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo**

Representatives from the four local school districts—Castro Valley, Hayward, San Leandro and San Lorenzo—will explain how their districts will implement the new Common Core Standards and Assessments. They will also answer written questions from the audience.

The luncheon cost is \$12 paid before the luncheon or \$15 paid at the door. The program is free for those attending just to hear the program.

RSVP to: [Suzanne @ 538-9678](mailto:Suzanne@538-9678) or suzbarba@comcast.net

ALAMEDA COUNTY'S IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT How Does It Affect You?

Thursday, October 3
5:30 to 8 p.m.

**Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Ave., Castro Valley**

The Affordable Care Act (ACA), first implemented in 2011, will soon offer a number of benefits and changes in coverage and medical care services for citizens across the country. However, the law may also provoke questions and concerns regarding how these changes will come about and directly affect local residents and businesses.

A panel of experts on the ACA, including Alameda County Supervisor Wilma Chan and Alex Briscoe of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, will discuss the key points of the new law.

The panel discussion will be followed at 7 p.m. by a presentation on "Addiction and Recovery in Patients and Health Professionals" by Dr. David Smith.

The program is hosted by the Alameda and Contra Costa Counties Optometric Society in collaboration with the Alameda County Library and LWVEA.

The program is free. Questions?

Contact Dr. Jennifer Ong 510-397-9006.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – Jennifer Ong



LWV Eden Area is **BOLD!**

At our state League convention in June, local League presidents were asked to commit to being **bold** for the coming year. Being bold involves taking risks and conveying a strong presence. Three months since our LWVEA Board officers were installed, our Board has already begun taking bold steps. One of our first Board meetings featured CSUEB representative Stan Hebert. Cal State East Bay in collaboration with LWVEA will be educating the public about one of our top state legislative issues: Dark Money in Politics. Our featured speaker, the Chair of the state FPPC, was nominated by President Obama to the Federal Election Commission.

Ann Ravel has chaired the California Fair Political Practices Commission since March 2011 actively exposing money's influence over politics during her tenure. Ms. Ravel has advocated for more disclosure including, in 2012, when pressures were placed on an Arizona-based nonprofit group to reveal the source of an \$11 million contribution attempting to defeat a California ballot measure to counteract another.

The FPPC, under Ann Ravel's leadership, identified this effort as "campaign money laundering." In June, the L.A. Times opined that Ms. Ravel would be the "right tonic for the wounded and disastrously ineffective Federal Election Commission" so that it made her even less likely to be approved by the Senate.

We are pleased to report that as of Monday, Sept. 23rd, the U.S. Senate unanimously confirmed Ann Ravel to the Federal Election Commission. Stay tuned for more details on our program as we explore the role of money in politics on the state and federal level by delivering bold ideas for educating this and future generations about transparency and accountability in government.

BOARD BRIEFS Sept. 18, 2013

- Water & Bay Delta Conservation Plan – Discussed collaborating with Sierra Club on a "pro and con" program in January on the proposed Plan for solving the state water problem.
- Fracking - Received information on a film called Gasland 2 which will be shown at the Castro Valley Library on Oct. 15.
- Implementation of Affordable Care Act in Alameda County – We agreed to co-sponsor a forum with the AC Library and ACCC Optometric Society on Oct. 3.
- Resolution for Dr. Dennis Byas – Approved a resolution commending Dr. Dennis Byas for his many years of service to the San Lorenzo School District and the community.
- Common Core Standards Forum – Reviewed the status of speakers from the four school districts and a request to videotape the presentation and put it on our website and YouTube. Suggestion will be explored.
- Membership – We now have 117 members which includes 10 new members, but not all membership renewals are in from present members.
- Funding for Hayward Library – Committee obtaining pro and con speakers for this Hot Topic discussion group and are looking at an October or November date.
- National Voter Registration Day – It is Sept 24 and Nancy indicated she has several places and enough volunteers to staff those places to register voters.

Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 5:45 p.m. at the Multi-service Center on Amador, in Hayward.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND THANK YOU TO MEMBERS WHO RECENTLY RENEWED

LWVEA welcomes two new members who joined in August 2013: **Silvia Brandon-Perez** and **Deborah Lundy**. Both of these women joined because current members encouraged them to join and sent them newsletters and other information indicating that the League is one organization that “walks the talk.” Silvia and Deborah—glad to have you aboard.

As you know, membership renewals were sent out in July and the “early birds” were listed in the August and September VOTERS. Below are renewals that we have recently received.

Marianne Dimick
Evelyn Gertler
Angela Reliford

Christine Frick
Jennifer Ong
Beverly Reliford

If your name has not appeared, please email Suzanne and she will check to see if we have received your check.

HOT TOPIC: HOW TO FUND CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW HAYWARD LIBRARY



The LWVEA has proposed a late October or early November date to hold a “hot topic” discussion on “how to fund

construction of a new Hayward Library.” Hot Topics uses the same pro and con format as regular League forums but are more informal and include more discussion by participants. The League was informally asked to have a public discussion on the topic by a city council member. and the League Board agreed that it would be helpful to get a sense of public opinion.

Evelyn Cormier, a long-time League member and Hayward community activist, agreed to chair the committee to put this discussion together. She has confirmed a speaker from the Hayward Library and another from CSUEB to talk about the bonding methods available. Evelyn is also waiting to include the results of a Hayward survey on the subject that is supposed to be done soon.

Members of the Library Funding Hot Topics Committee are Evelyn (chair), Gail Lundholm, Cossette Sun, Jewell Spalding and Beverly Reliford.

If you would like to participate on the committee and/or attend the discussion group once the date has been set, contact Evelyn at: ev.cormier@comcast.net.

YOU HAVE A PLACE AT THE TABLE: Words to Action – Hunger and Homelessness in Hayward



Two members of the LWVEA have been meeting with the Task Force to

End Hunger and Homelessness in Hayward and to plan an Awareness and Action event. The date of that event is November 16 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Southgate Community Center, 26780 Chiplay Ave., in Hayward.

The Task Force will review its work ,including recommendations generated and progress made since its inception in January 2013.

There will also be a panel with representatives from the Alameda County Food Bank and a housing group, EveryOne Home. The agenda includes presentations by two former program participants who can speak about living the situation.

The Task Force's goal is to educate and inspire attendees and then have the group come up with concrete action steps that can be taken to end the food insecurity crisis, decrease waste, and increase stability in the community.

There will be booths that community organizations will staff to explain to attendees how they may sign up to take real action—small steps/big outcome.

GASLAND 2 FILM SHOWN IN CASTRO VALLEY

The film "Gasland 2" will be showing in the Castro Valley Library on Tuesday, October 15 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. However, the event begins at 4 p.m. and runs through 8 p.m.

The Castro Valley Library is at 3600 Norbridge Ave., and there is no cost to attend. This is the second film by Josh Fox who was nominated for an Oscar for his previous film, "Gasland."

The film uses dark humor to show "how the stakes have been raised in one of the most important environmental issues facing our nation today" according to the film media release.

The film is co-sponsored by Californians Against Fracking, Food & Water Watch and the Sierra Club, Southern Alameda County Chapter.

[\(See LWVC Statement on fracking below\)](#)

SB 4 (Pavley): Regulation of Fracking - LWVC 9-13-13

SB 4 (Pavley) was passed by the Legislature and sent to Governor Brown on September 11. This bill establishes a comprehensive statutory framework—probably the strongest in the country—for regulating hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") and acidization of oil and gas wells.

Fracking has been occurring without regulation in California for decades, despite evidence of harm from around the country. SB 4 provides permitting, accountability and transparency in well stimulation, including both fracking and

acidization. The bill requires:

- Disclosure of the quantity and source of water used and the disposal of wastewater, and monitoring of groundwater quality in the area
- Disclosure of the identities of all chemicals injected even if trade secrets are claimed, with provision for additional disclosure in emergencies or threats to public health
- Advance notice to neighbors of proposed projects
- An independent scientific study of the hazards and risks posed to natural resources and public, occupational, and environmental health and safety
- Coordination among agencies to ensure accountability and transparency
- Costs of regulation borne by the oil and gas companies through fees ("polluter pays").

SB 4 will result in regulations far stronger than DOGGR (the Division of Oil, Gas, and Geothermal Resources) is likely to adopt in its absence. Moreover, it does not prevent local entities from passing their own rules or limit the authority of landmark state laws such as AB 32 in fracking matters.

The League of Women Voters of California has strong concerns about recent amendments to the bill that could weaken the oversight of the fracking process while the adoption of regulations is under way or could be construed as an exemption to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review of fracking.

We regret that a remedy was not found before the Legislature went into recess for the year. However, we are committed to working with policy makers and our allies to put a correction to the CEQA language into place in the coming months.

The [LWVC](#) will also monitor implementation of the bill and participate in the various public processes it establishes.



EDEN AREA LIVABILITY INITIATIVE (EALI) - PHASE II

Alameda County launched the Eden Area Livability Initiative (EALI) in December of 2004, spearheaded by Alameda County Supervisor Nate Miley, with the goal of improving the livability of the community of the western part of the unincorporated areas of Alameda County. EALI was developed to identify regional and local beliefs that will be used to guide the development of an integrated approach for future planning, development, land use and all aspects of service within the Eden Area.

In 2008 the County joined together in a day of intensive collaboration toward building community consensus on a vision for the future of the area. Participants discussed and prioritized 24 catalyst projects to bring the community's vision to life.

As the result of Phase I, many initiatives were implemented, including the major project of developing, constructing and operating a much needed youth center and health clinic in the Ashland area called REACH.

On January 30, 2013, Supvr. Miley held a Blue Ribbon Steering Committee meeting, the first meeting of EALI Phase II. The group developed six major visioning and work groups—Governance, Economic Development, Agriculture and Environment, Public Safety and Realignment, Education and the Cherryland Community Center Working Group. A Public Health Element was also added. Supvr. Wilma Chan who represents a portion of the unincorporated area is also participating in EALI.

Each of those community visioning and working groups have been meeting monthly to develop new goals and

strategies to improve the livability of the unincorporated urban communities.

On Saturday, November 16, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., there will be a Charrette for Phase II at the Eden Church, in Oliver Hall, 21455 Birch Street. Hayward. People who have been participating in the visioning and working groups as well as interested members of the Eden Area communities are invited to attend.

However, voting is limited to residents or business/property owners in the unincorporated communities, who are at least 16 years of age.

For further information contact Eileen Ng, Assist. to Supervisor Miley at 510-381-9017 or at 510-670-5717. EALI information can be assessed at:

www.acgov.org/edenareavision/phase2

LEAGUE WORKING FOR US AT ALL LEVELS

We have included articles in this VOTER to show members that the League is taking action on three levels--local, State and National--on many important issues. You can be proud that your local membership dues support all levels of the League. Send a copy of this VOTER to family and friends and invite them to join.

LWVUS --Supreme Court Preview: McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission

By: Jessica Jones 09/11/2013



The U.S. Supreme Court is set to begin hearing cases in its

fall term next month. On the second day of arguments, a case that has been labeled the "next *Citizens United*" will be heard by the Justices.

The case, *McCutcheon v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)*, challenges aggregate spending limits that are imposed on individual donors in order to prevent corruption and the appearance of corruption. To understand the full effect that this case could have on campaign finance, it's important to understand what limits are currently placed on individual donor contributions.

In the 1970s, Congress passed and amended the [Federal Election Campaign Act \(FECA\)](#). The legislation was introduced following the corruption during the 1972 election season. FECA established contribution limits for individuals and disclosure requirements for federal candidates, political parties and political action committees as well as contributors. It also established the [FEC](#) as the governing body for enforcement of these limits. [The League lobbied intensively for FECA and worked to defend the law in the courts.](#) Throughout this time and since, the League has advocated that limits to the size and type of contributions from all sources are an essential means to combat undue influence and corruption in the election and governing processes.

Individuals can donate \$2,600 per election to a federal candidate, \$32,400 to a national party committee and up to \$5,000 to a non-party political action committee (PAC). But in addition, there is [an aggregate contribution limit](#) of \$123,200 on the total amount that an individual can donate to candidates and party or non-party political committees over a two-year period. Contribution limits were established to block corruption from large gifts of money to particular candidates and to avoid creating a funnel system through which large amounts of money from a single person could be distributed from PACs or party committees to individual candidates.

Removing the aggregate limits on

contributions would allow an unlimited amount of money to be contributed by one person to federal candidates. And it would allow an office holder or candidate to solicit an unlimited contribution for distribution to a number of candidates. Thus, the contributor would gain broad influence and the recipient would be beholden due to the unlimited gift. More money, more influence. Thus, the *McCutcheon v. FEC* case will have a large impact even though it deals with a technical and arcane matter of campaign finance law.

The League has joined [an amicus brief](#) in this case. The brief argues two basic points. First, overturning the aggregate limit would ignore the real world effects that abolishing the limits would have. Overturning the aggregate limit would essentially allow individuals to donate millions of dollars to candidates and political parties and corrupt our political system. Second, abolishing aggregate limits would allow the party and PAC systems to become a funnel for candidates across the country and circumvent the other existing limits.



The League will continue to be active at all levels of government to protect our political system from big-money corruption and to ensure that the voices of voters across the country can be heard. We will continue to update our website with information on this case. Check out our work on [Money in Politics](#) for the most up-to-date information regarding this case and other actions being taken on campaign finance issues.

LWVUS - TAKE ACTION: SENATE THREATENS CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRESS

The progress we have made in the fight against climate change this year with the President's announcement of a comprehensive carbon control plan is now being threatened in the Senate. Recently, S. 1392, an energy efficiency bill, was to be brought to the floor, and a last minute push to add amendments that would undermine that progress is being made.

We cannot let these amendments move forward; please take action now. **Tell your Senators to reject bad environmental amendments that will put the health and safety of our children and our future at risk.** During continued floor debate on this legislation, amendments will be offered that turn a blind eye to the devastating impacts of climate change--including proposals to undo a plan to cut carbon pollution, approve the Keystone XL pipeline and cut vehicle emissions standards.

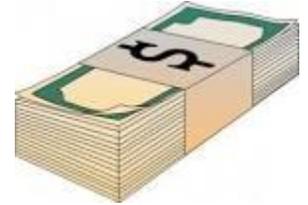
Tell your Senators to reject bad environmental amendments that could destroy our climate and harm public health. **Tell your Senators to put people before polluters by protecting our environment, fighting climate change and saying no to the Keystone XL Pipeline.**

LWVC - MONEY AND POLITICS Governor Brown: Please Sign SB 3 into Law!

The first step toward a new online campaign disclosure system Campaign treasurer training Members of the League of Women Voters and many other Californians urge Governor Brown to sign SB 3 by Senators Yee and Lieu.

Californians' trust in government depends on open and honest elections with maximum citizen participation in the

political process. "Following the money" in California politics should be easy and straightforward, but that is not what voters find. If you've ever tried to look up the flow of money in a political campaign, you know why SB 3 is needed.



Cal-ACCESS, the state's online campaign and lobbying disclosure system, is antiquated and fragile, limping along with outdated hardware and software. As a result, it has had one serious breakdown already. People accustomed to the federal system know that online disclosure can be simple, searchable, and flexible. Not so with Cal-ACCESS! We actually have a page of instructions on our lwvc.org web site to help people figure out how to use it to follow the money in ballot measure or candidate campaigns.

SB 3 will bring California's disclosure system into the 21st century. This bill will require the Secretary of State to perform a feasibility study, the first step in replacing Cal-ACCESS. We must have up-to-date information about the cost and the technology required to modernize the system. SB 3 will also help fund this project by increasing the fine for the late filing of reports, with the increase going to the Cal-ACCESS maintenance and replacement fund, PDATA.

Another important aspect of SB 3 is that it will require the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) to develop online training for campaign treasurers. Treasurers can easily be intimidated by all the rules and regulations regarding day-to-day activities and maintaining proper audit files.

SB 3 takes important steps to strengthen disclosure so that voters can get the information they need about who is trying to influence elections. Increased transparency will help preserve the integrity of the election process. Members of the League of Women Voters are proud to sponsor SB 3, and we urge Governor Brown to sign this bill!

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

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

Oct 3—5:30pm	Implementation of Affordable Care Act, CV Library—See page 1
Oct 4—11:30am	Forum—Common Core Standards, San Lorenzo—See page 1
Oct 15—4:00pm	Gasland 2 Film, CV Library—See page 4
Oct 16—5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting, Hayward—Email lwvea@aol.com for agenda
Nov TBD	Hot Topic—Funding new Hayward Library
Nov 16—1 to 4pm	Forum—Hunger & Homelessness, Hayward
Nov 16—9 to 2pm	Eden Area Livability Initiative, Eden Church, Hayward
Nov 20—5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting, Hayward—Email lwvea@aol.com for agenda
Dec 6—5:30 to 8pm	LWVEA Annual Holiday Party and Auction—SAVE THE DATE

For up to date info check out LWVEA.org