



League of Women Voters Eden Area

VOTER

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REMINDER IMPORTANT DATES TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL

In order to help voters understand the issues and provide information on candidates, the League will be holding several forums before the June 7 primaries.

April 13 (Wed.) District 4 Board of Supervisor Candidate Forum featuring Supervisor Nate Miley (incumbent) and Bryan Parker - 6:30 - 8:30 pm, Castro Valley Library.

April 20 (Wed.) Pro and Con Forum concerning (1) Proposed change for future Hayward City Council Election Date from June to November effective 2018 and (2) Hayward Utility User's Tax which stays at same rate and is extended for 20 years – 6:30 to 8:30 pm. at Hayward City Hall.



SOME LOCAL AND COUNTY MEASURES (excerpted) YOU WILL SEE ON YOUR JUNE 7 BALLOT:

Measure A – Chabot Las-Positas Community College District – A bond measure for \$950,000,000 to be used for “Job Training, Classroom Repair and Student Safety.”

Measure C – “Shall the charter of the city of Hayward be amended to change general municipal elections from June of even-number years to November of even-number years to be effective in 2018?”

Measure D – City of Hayward – pertains to extension of Hayward’s present Utility User’s Tax for 20 years at the present rate of 5.5%.

Measure G – Castro Valley USD School Facilities Bond Measure – “To upgrade and repair aging classrooms; improve school safety and security; expand classroom space ...update science labs and learning technology; improve access for students with disabilities.....” by issuing \$123 million in bonds which would not exceed \$60 per year per \$100,000 of assessed value (not market rate) of taxable property.

For more details on the above measures, go to www.acgov.org/rov/elections/2016

There will also be a nine county (including Alameda County) Wetlands Restoration Tax on the June 7th ballot. (See page 3 for more information)

SMART VOTER and [MapLight](#) have teamed up to bring California a new comprehensive, nonpartisan online guide to elections called [Voter's Edge](#) which will be available in May.

Providing in-depth voter information that is easily accessible, neutral and factual on one platform; the mobile-optimized guide provides voter information on federal, state and local elections, including endorsements, candidate biographies, ballot measure summaries, top funder lists, videos, news, and more.

"Voter's Edge gives you, the voter, the edge against all the biased, negative advertising," said Daniel G. Newman, Co-Founder and President of MapLight. "It's the quick, easy way to get the facts before you vote."

PRESIDENT'S REPORT *by Nancy Van Huffel*

March was a busy month for the League. On March 5th, the League received a Lifetime Achievement Award from Assemblymember Bill Quirk. On March 18th, we sponsored a very successful Mental Health Forum. Finally, on March 19th Past President, Suzanne Barba was inducted into the Alameda County Women's Hall of Fame (WHOF).



Accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award from left to right: Penny Peck (Secretary), Ellen Corbett (Former State Senator), Malca Chall and Gail Steele (50- yearr members), Nancy Van Huffel (President), Alison Lewis and Suzanne Barba (Past Presidents) & Assemblymember Bill Quirk.

Below: Suzanne Barba accepting the WHOF award.

Check out: <http://acgov.org/whof/inductees/2016/barba.htm>



L-R: Moderator Joanne Young, Supv Wilma Chan, Alameda Co Health Care Rebecca Gebhart, Hay Police Chief Diane Urban, Gail Steele, Former AC Supv



BOARD BRIEFS March 28, 2016

- **Annual Meeting** – Changed the date from June 11 to June 18 because of LWVUS Convention.
- **Budget Modification** – The Board voted to send Joanne Young and Awai Zelinsky to the LWV National Convention and voted to modify the budget accordingly.
- **Mental Health Forum** – Feedback indicates it was very successful. Panel was excellent. Fifty people attended. Next time we will videotape forum.
- **Voter Service** – The League will apply to register voters at the three surrounding Farmers' Markets in the Eden Area in late April to allow time before the deadline for the election on June 7.
- **VoterEdge** – We are submitting questions as requested to VoterEdge for candidates who post information (free) about their candidacy on the League website.
- **Website** – Heard a report that the state League is switching their League Easy Web (LEW) which our League uses, to make it more reliable and attractive in 2017.
- **League Local Positions** - Teams are meeting on six of our local positions to update them. The Chair of the project estimates it will take six months to complete their work.
- **Castro Valley USD Bond Measure G** - The Board heard presentations from the CVUSD Superintendent Ahmadi and Board President Jo Loss about Measure G. There appears to be no opposition to the measure on the ballot. The Board voted to approve support of Measure G.
- * **Hayward Volunteer of the Year** - The Board nominated Joanne Young who is Voter Service Team Chair and will submit her application.

LWVEA Board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 4th Monday at 5:45 pm. Contact LWVEA@aol.com for agenda.

WETLANDS RESTORATION TAX ON JUNE BALLOT *(Excerpted from Editorial - Contra Costa Times, Feb. 24, 2016)*

We're fortunate that environmentalists three decades ago halted the filling of San Francisco Bay. Now, as we face rising sea levels due to global warming, we need to take the next step by restoring wetlands destroyed over more than a century.

That's why Bay Area voters in June should back Measure AA, a nine-county, \$12-per-parcel annual tax to raise some of the funds needed for restoration before the wetlands are forever lost. Wetlands provide natural flood protection by breaking up wave energy. Unfortunately, between the Gold Rush in 1849 and the 1980s about one-third of the bay was filled. The tidal marsh, once about 200,000 acres, has been reduced to about 44,000 today.

Meanwhile, water level in the bay is expected to rise one foot in the next 20 years, 2 feet by 2050 and up to 5 feet by 2100, according to the National Academy of Sciences. That threatens highways, airports, homes and office buildings along the shoreline. We should address the problem as soon as possible.

The proposed tax would raise an estimated \$500 million over its 20-year life, a fraction of what is needed, but a good seed-money fund to attract state, federal and private-sector contributions. It would be administered by the San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority, an agency created by state law in 2008 to restore wetlands and wildlife habitat in the bay and along the shoreline. The agency has a seven-member board appointed by the Association of Bay Area Governments but no funding to carry out its mission. That's where the tax comes in.

To be sure, the tax is imperfect. Each parcel would be levied the same \$12 annually, regardless of its size or proximity to the bay. In an ideal world, property owners would pay in proportion to the benefits they receive. But levying such an

assessment would be extremely complicated and costly.

The simple tax, which requires two-thirds approval across the nine counties. Given the modest amount raised, we're not inclined to press for a more costly allocation system. That said, there's little doubt that some major companies that have built in low-lying areas, especially Silicon Valley firms like Facebook, Google and Cisco, face substantial threats and stand to benefit greatly from wetlands restoration. They need to step up with meaningful contributions to the restoration effort. Merely underwriting a political campaign that leaves the cost to others doesn't cut it. *(Excerpted from Editorial - Contra Costa Times, Feb. 24, 2016)*

The following two program are not sponsored by the LWVEA but meet the League's mission.



THE FUTURE OF FOOD

Book-to-action: Putting Words Into Action

The Future of Food is a multi-faceted program sponsored by the Hayward Library, California State University East Bay and the Friends of the Hayward Library. This group has planned several interesting events about "The Future of Food" that you won't want to miss.

You can read a book (Lentil Underground by Liz Carlisle) a protégé of Michael Pollan, about a group of farmers who have defied corporate agribusiness.

Request a free copy of this book by registering at <http://eastbaybooktoaction.weebly.com> (while supplies last.)

You can discuss the ideas in the book on Tuesday, April 5 from noon to 1

pm at CSUEB, Library Bella Room, or on Wednesday, April 6, 6:30-7:30 pm at the Hayward Public Library.

Meet the Author at the Sustainable Food Resource Fair on Thursday, April 21 from 5-9 pm at the Hayward City Hall. from 5-7 p.m. Eat, Meet & Greet at the Resource Fair and watch cooking demonstration and eat free food samples. From 7 to 9 p.m. listen to a panel presentation that will get you all excited about the Future of Food.

Watch a film – Can You Dig This about an inspirational journey of five urban gardeners. Free film screenings on Thursday, April 28 from 2-3:30 pm at CSUEB, University Theater, and Thursday, May 5, 7-9 pm at Hayward City Hall.

For more information call (510) 881-7700 or email sally.thomas@hayward-ca.gov or visit <http://eastbaybooktoaction.weebly.com/>

Taking Charge of Health Needs in Retirement

Do you want to "age in place"? Surveys reveal that most Americans want to "age in place," but what does it mean? And how do we make it happen? What is long-term care? Who pays for long-term care and how much does it cost?

The presentation will discuss long-term care, aging in place as well as health care costs in retirement.

The session is presented by California Health Advocates, an independent 501(c)(3) organization that provides quality Medicare and related healthcare coverage information, education and policy advocacy. California Health Advocates supports the work of service providers, including HICAP (Health Insurance Counseling & Advocacy Program), the Medicare benefits counseling program.

Where: Castro Valley Library

When: Tuesday, April 26, 2016, 6:30-8 pm

ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE FOR THE JUNE 7th ELECTION?

MAY 23rd is the last day to register to vote in the June 7th election! If you are not already registered, the Eden Area League would like to provide several registration opportunities in our area. We will conduct registration opportunities during drives at BART stations and Farmers' Markets on the following dates:

FARMERS' MARKETS

Saturday, April 23 from 9 am to 1 pm in Castro Valley, Hayward, and San Leandro markets.

BART STATIONS

Wednesday, April 27 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm in Castro Valley, San Leandro (downtown), San Leandro (Bayfair), Hayward and Dublin stations.

Please check your calendars and join us to register voters on one of these dates at one of these locations!

Please email or call Joanne Young, Voter Services, LWVEA at jysunrunner@gmail.com or 510-538-5567.

Joanne Young
LWVEA Voter Service Team Chair



SAVE THE DATE FOR LWVEA ANNUAL MEETING – JUNE 11

Our Annual Meeting was originally planned for June 18, but it is now changed to June 11. The venue will be announced shortly. The Board agreed to pursue inviting an expert on the Bay Area Housing Crisis to be our keynote speaker and possibly a panel. As soon as we confirm the venue and the speaker(s), we will send out an email blast and call those who do not have emails. Stay tuned.....

ALAMEDA COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION TO DISCUSS FRACKING

Please join us at the Planning Commission public hearing on Monday, April 4th on a strong new ordinance to ban fracking and other extreme oil production methods in Alameda County.

WHEN: 6:00 pm, Monday, April 4th
WHERE: Public Hearing Room, 224 West Winton Ave. Hayward

The new ordinance the Planning Commission will consider provides strong protections against all of these hazardous operations:

- Fracking, which is the high-pressure injection of thousands of gallons of chemicals of unknown toxicity mixed with fresh (!) water into shale formations thousands of feet deep in the earth, to fracture the rock formation which contains tightly-bound oil
- Acid fracturing, acid matrix stimulation treatment, and acid well stimulation treatment, which are variations on the injection of powerful acids to release oil which is bound tightly inside a geologic formation
- High-pressure injection of fresh water or steam, carbon dioxide, or other waste gases, to loosen thick, tarry oil from the host geologic formation
- Storage of waste fluids which are by-products of oil and gas production in percolation pits or sumps, which are notorious for air pollution through the evaporation of toxic substances, and for water pollution by chemicals seeping into clean groundwater.

Your presence will make a statement to the Planning Commission of your support for the ordinance banning fracking. **Join us at the Planning Commission on Monday, April 4th!**

Frank Burton, LWVEA Member contributed this article.

BRIEF ROUND-UP OF LWVEA ACTIVITIES--March was a busy month!

MENTAL HEALTH FORUM – March 2016. More than 50 attended this excellent forum featuring four expert panelists: Supervisor Wilma Chan; Rebecca Gebhart, Acting Director, Alameda County Healthcare Services Agency; Diane Urban, Hayward Police Chief; and Gail Steele, former A.C. Supervisor and an advocate for mental health clients.

Supervisor Chan explained how Laura's Law was implemented by Alameda County as a pilot program for only five seriously ill mental health patients who refused following a medication or therapy program.

Rebecca Gebhart discussed the ten point program that her agency was implementing to better serve the mentally ill. Some of those points were: Hiring an Administrator to oversee the program; increasing data-sharing between Behavioral Health and the Sheriff's department; increase provider and staff capacity by training staff in an array of services; and engaging families who have to serve as critical resources--to name a few.

Hayward Police Chief Diane Urban, said she was proud of the fact that the Hayward Police Dept. has eight full-time counselors providing services 24/7. She explained the difficulty officers have when confronted with handling mentally ill people. She said fighting crime was not like presented on TV where crimes are solved in 26 minutes—the reality is that sometimes it takes years to solve crimes.

Gail Steele talked about her years working on helping the mentally ill get the services they need—since the 1950's! She noted that in 1970 there were 9 state hospitals where the mentally ill could get services. In 1972 there were 6 state hospitals. In 1973, there were only 3 state hospitals remaining. "Where are the 8,500

people who need mental health service getting those services?" she asked. She said that when you stamp out accessibility, you stamp out care.

The feedback from attendees was very positive—the only criticism was that we forgot to videotape it so people who could not attend could benefit.

Thanks to Aihua Zelinsky who chaired the Program Team who developed this program.

CANDIDATE FORUM FOR HAYWARD CITY COUNCIL - March 30

Seven of the ten candidates participated in the candidate forum for Hayward City Council for four seats. They were: Wynn Grcich, Elisa Marquez (incumbent) Matt McGrath, Al Mendall (incumbent), Mark Salinas, Brian Schott and Francisco Zermeño (incumbent). Those candidates who were not able to attend were: Leo Ram. Kenneth R. Rollins and John Taylor.

Penny Peck was the moderator and set the tone for a civil, comprehensive and meaningful debate which brought out many good ideas from candidates. The candidate forum was videotaped by the Hayward City videotape technicians and will be available for viewing soon on the city's website.

LWVEA Joanne Young, Voter Service Team Chair also assisted. Thanks to Hayward City Clerk Miriam Lens and the Hayward City Council for their generosity in allowing the forum to take place in the city chambers.

LEAGUE ASSISTS PALOMARES HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION WITH ELECTION

On March 15, the LWVEA conducted the ballot counting for the Palomares Homeowners Association to select three board members. Under the direction of Joanne Young, chair of the Voter Service Team, the following League members served as counters: Marian Handa, Cossette Sun, René Besold, Joanne Young, Nancy Van Huffel and Suzanne Barba.

TRANSPORTATION THE FOCUS OF BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY CONFERENCE

The annual Bay Area League Day hosted by LWV Bay Area on February 6 in San Pablo revealed recent developments and pressing concerns in transportation.

Keynote speaker State Senator Jim Beall, chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, set a tone of anxiety over the perpetually insufficient revenue for transportation generally and road maintenance in particular, a concern echoed by speakers on three subsequent panels.

Three speakers on Funding stressed the difficulty of passing state funding because it requires a two-thirds vote in the legislature while local funding comes from voter approved sales taxes. Sales taxes impact low- income families more than wealthier families even though revenue for transportation ultimately benefits everyone.

The Innovation and Technology panel dealt with new ways for organizations to influence transit choices by workers, for example, by altering parking options and reducing traffic with HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes designed to “promote social equity.” Promoting social equity can be tricky, however. Traffic Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber, which gained support because they created jobs, are now thought to be increasing traffic because they charge less than licensed taxis. Whether traffic congestion will be tamed in the future remains uncertain despite technological advances such as driverless cars.

The panel on Cultural Changes Impacting Transportation discussed changes made by government agencies like the San Francisco Department of the Environment, activist non-profits like Genesis which collaborate to promote

inclusion of underserved communities, and businesses like CALSTART, which is borrowing greener bus technology to make truck operation more climate friendly.

League member Ken Bukowski’s videos of the event can be viewed on his regional-video.com website. Link for Sen. Beall’s talk: <http://regional-video.com/lwv-senator-jim-beall-feb-6-2016-bayarea-league-day-san-pablo-ca/>

*Ruby MacDonald, LWV
Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville*

ARE YOU AVAILABLE TO HELP?

As you know, the League’s success depends on its members to meet its mission to: Educate, Advocate and Impact decision-making. The League has assignments—large and small—that it hopes more members can do.

VOTER REGISTRATION – In this VOTER, you will find an article indicating the date and places (BART stations and Farmers’ Markets) where we could use more help to register voters. Contact Joanne, at jysunrunner@gmail.com or 510-538-5567.

CANDIDATE AND ISSUE FORUMS – We need members for many different assignments: timer, people to give out question cards and then pick them up, card sorters, moderators. Contact Nancy at lwvea@aol.com

VOTER EDUCATION AT LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS – Utilizing League materials including power point, make presentations at local high schools. Contact Marian at marian@roble.com

VOTER NEWSLETTER – Write articles on League-related topics, formatting contents, proofreading, snail mail to those without email—opportunity to work/train closely with present editor! Contact Suzanne at suzbarba@comcast.net

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

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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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Eden Area League of Women Voters 2015-2016

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CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	PLACE
April 4 6 pm	AC Plan Commission Mtg On Fracking	See page 5
April 5	The Future of Food	See page 4
April 13 6:30-8:30 pm	District 4 Board of Supes Candidate Forum	CV Library
April 20 6:30-8:30 pm	Pro and Con forum on 2 Hayward Propositions	See page 1
April 23 9am to 1 pm	Registering Voters at Farmers’ Market	See page 5
April 25 5:45 pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	See pg 3 Board Briefs
April 26 6:30-8pm	Taking Charge of Health Needs	See pg 4 CV Library
April 27 4:30-6:30pm	Register Voters at BART Stations	See page 5
May 7 (Sat) 9:30 - noon	LWV Bay Area Convention San Mateo County Community College	Contact lwvea@aol.com
June 11 Time TBA	LWVEA Annual Meeting	Venue TBA

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