



# League of Women Voters Eden Area

# VOTER

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## YOUR VOTE, YOUR VOICE Voter Event Calendar Round-up

This has been a busier election season than usual. Please update your calendar so you won't miss an important event. First a reminder:

October 24 – Last day to register to vote.  
November 1 – Last day to request a "vote by mail" ballot if you haven't signed up before.

November 8 – **ELECTION DAY.**  
Your polling place is open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

## LWVEA UPDATED CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Candidate Forums

**October 5 (Wed.) 7-8:30pm**  
**San Leandro City Council**  
San Leandro Library, Lecture Hall  
300 Estudillo (change of venue from when previously announced)

One contested race in District 2 for one seat:  
Bryan Azevedo and  
Ed Hernandez.

Uncontested race in District 4 –  
Benny Lee

Uncontested race in District 6 –  
Pete Ballew

**Oct. 6 (Thurs.) 6:30 to 9**  
**San Lorenzo School District Board**  
San Lorenzo Library, 395 Paseo Grande

### Four candidates running for three seats:

Helen Foster (I),  
Penny Peck (I)  
Kyla Sinegal and  
Marilyn Stewart.

### Oct. 18 (Tues.) 5-9 pm

**Castro Valley School District Board** and  
**Castro Valley Sanitary District Board**  
Castro Valley Library, 3600 Norbridge Ave.

**Castro Valley School Board** - Five candidates running for three seats: Suresh Gupta, Monica Lee, Jo A.S. Loss (I), Tojo Thomas, and Lavender Whitaker.

**Castro Valley Sanitary District Board** – Four candidates running for three seats: Daniel Akagi (I), Timothy McGowan (I), John Maher, and Dave Sadoff (I).

Candidate Forums are sponsored by the League of Women Voters Eden Area following State and National League Guidelines. Questions may be referred to Janice Friesen, Voter Service Director at [jfriesen5490@yahoo.com](mailto:jfriesen5490@yahoo.com).



## Co-Presidents' Report

*Moving  
Forward  
with  
Unity  
and  
Strength*



In our last Co-presidents report, we stated that we look forward to the coming year and feel confident that with our team work, our League will continue to grow and make an impact on local issues such as affordable housing, transportation, environment, mental health care, and protecting and engaging voters. What we have done over the last month or so demonstrates that members in our League indeed continuously show that there is strength in working together.

There's a saying, "Team Work Makes a Dream Work," which is essentially true because one is a very small number for greatness. Every great enterprise has begun at least with a team of two people. Bill Gates and Paul Allen founded Microsoft, Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak led to the founding of Apple, four talented musicians led to the formation of The Beatles and the story goes on.

The story of our League further shows that we strongly believe in the importance of teamwork and understand that without co-operation, real success is impossible. In fact, one of our League's strengths is its spirit of teamwork. Each member's support and dedication to responsibilities in our League has helped us achieve success in our many tasks such as voter registration and education, candidates' forums, the Debate Watch programs, the educational pros and cons on the measures--just to mention a few.

Each of us believes that we can only do so much by ourselves and that by channeling efforts, talents, and resources

of other people and team members, we not only succeed but we also utilize members' unique abilities to engage the community.

One of our League members said that it is crucial to establish a positive attitude and a constructive persona when unifying different people. She states that, "Each of us is competent in his or her own right, but when we come together, we form a synergism that makes us even more powerful and an even greater team." It strikes the core principle that our League has put into practice - the belief that in unity there is strength and success.

Whether it is the task of finding a venue for an event, or organizing a forum or study, or coordinating various voter registration and education programs, or negotiating a contract with local organizations, each member has put in tremendous effort to work with others despite differences in working styles and personalities, so as to achieve the League's vision.

It is the strength of this unique unity and belief that has helped our League move forward to play an influential role in our local policy making process and impact greatly on local issues. It is this unique strength of unity that has enabled our League to actively engage the community for better governance in our country.

We believe when we work together as a team our League will continue to grow and impact our local community positively. There is tremendous power in unity. Within the spirit of unity and teamwork, nothing is impossible!

Once again, we sincerely thank each of our League board members and members at large for all you have done and all you have contributed to the success of our League.

*Joanne Young and Aihua Zelinsky*



## How to Evaluate Ballot Propositions

- Examine what the measure seeks to accomplish. Do you agree with those goals?
  - Is the measure consistent with your ideas about government? Do you think the proposed changes will make things better?
    - Who are the real sponsors and opponents of the measure? Check where the money is coming from on the Voter's Edge California website: [votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca)
      - Is the measure written well? Will it create conflicts in law that may require court resolution or interpretation? Is it "good government," or will it cause more problems than it will resolve?
        - Does the measure create its own revenue source? Does it earmark, restrict, or obligate government revenues? If so, weigh the benefit of securing funding for this measure against the cost of reducing overall flexibility in the budget.
          - Does the measure mandate a government program or service without addressing how it will be funded?
            - Does the measure deal with one issue that can be easily decided by a YES or NO vote? Or, is it a complex issue that should be thoroughly examined in the legislative arena?
              - If the measure amends the Constitution, consider whether it really belongs in the Constitution. Would a statute accomplish the same purpose? All constitutional amendments require voter approval; what we put into the Constitution would have to come back to the ballot to be changed.
                - Be wary of distortion tactics and commercials that rely on image but tell nothing of substance about the measure. Beware of half truths.

## CLEARING UP THE CONFUSION BETWEEN PROP 65 AND PROP 67 SUBJECT: Plastic Bags

The League of Women Voters of California recommends a **"Yes" vote on Proposition 67**, the referendum on the plastic bag ban. Plastics, and plastic bags in particular, have entered our land, streams, lakes, and ocean. Never degrading, they pose a threat to wildlife and the ecosystem.

Across nearly half the state, many counties and most major California cities already ban single-use carryout bags, and it is working well.

A "Yes" vote will retain and implement the law passed to ban carryout plastic bags across all of California. That law was passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2014.

Grocers support it. Advocates from the Monterey Bay Aquarium and Coastal Commission support it. Environmental groups and many others strongly support it.

The League of Women Voters of California recommends a **"No" vote on Proposition 65**.

Proposition 65 is a deceptive measure. Four large players in the plastic bag industry—all from out of state—spent millions to put this disingenuous initiative on the ballot. It creates a distraction in an attempt to cause enough voter confusion that the more significant environmental measure, Proposition 67, fails.

Although at first glance Proposition 65 may sound reasonable, its true purpose is to distract from Proposition 67, which would put a ban on carryout plastic bags across California—something the plastic bag industry certainly doesn't want.

**Vote with the State League!  
Vote NO on 65 and Vote YES on 67.**



## Yes on A1 for Affordable Housing in Alameda County!

As you may already know, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on June 28th to place a **\$580 Million affordable housing bond** on the November ballot.

If passed by two-thirds of voters, **Measure A1** will help ensure that all residents of Alameda County can afford to live, work, and stay here for generations to come, with a variety of homeowner and rental housing programs to assist those who need it the most.

Everyone deserves a safe, affordable place to call home.

**Vote YES on A1!**

<http://www.affordablealameda.com/>.

## MAJOR WIN FOR CLIMATE LEGISLATION SB32

On August 24, the State Legislature approved SB 32



(Pavley), which places into law, the Governor's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030, and also AB 197 (E/Garcia) which provides transparency and accountability for the California Air Resources Board and adds disadvantaged communities and those most affected by air pollution as a priority consideration.

This culminates a major campaign during the current legislative session for the LWV of California that made climate change legislation a priority at its convention in 2015.

## Three Reasons To Watch the National Debates From LWVUS

The entire House of Representatives and dozens of US Senate and Governor's races will be decided in November, along with our next President. If you're wondering how you can choose the right candidate to receive your vote, we've got the answers! Doing research and knowing where you stand on the issues is a great start. But to really get the most information on the candidates and their stances, you can watch the candidate debates.



Here are three reasons that you should watch a candidate debate:

### 1. These issues matter

Would you hire someone without first interviewing them? Didn't think so. Think of candidate debates as an interview that allows you to get to know your candidates better and to get a sense of where they stand on the issues that matter most to you. Studies show that [attending a debate can impact your vote](#), and that Americans are more likely to vote when they feel informed about the candidates. Watching a debate is the perfect way for you to learn more before casting your vote.

### 3. Democracy works best when we all get involved

Our democracy thrives when *all* of us are engaged. When you watch a debate and discuss it with the people around you, you're helping foster important dialogue about issues that affect our lives. [Hosting a debate watching party](#) is a great and fun way to get your friends, family, coworkers and community to gather together and discuss the debate. You can also follow candidates on social media to stay involved and in-the-know.

#### 4. This election will determine our future.

The people who fill public offices will make decisions that affect you, your family and your community on issues like the economy, education, security, and health care. It's essential that we all weigh in on the process. Election Day is just around the corner; now is the time for all of us to get the information we need to cast our ballots, and watching the debates is a great way to do just that.

*(See page three for library sites to watch the National Debates.)*

### ARTICLES FROM THE LEAGUE'S BAY AREA MONITOR

#### Building a Higher Standard: The Environmental Upside of CALGreen

By Leslie Stewart

Sometimes it's the little things that do really count, especially when they are done by many people many times. One classic example is replacing an incandescent light-bulb with an energy-efficient one.

Do that in your living room, and you probably won't notice a difference on your electric bill, but if a million other households follow suit, the collective drop in energy use will be significant.

**To read the rest of this article and many more, such as:**

- Storytelling Across Centuries: National Park Service at 100
- Getting SMART: Region's newest Rail System Nearly Ready to Roll
- Beach Bacteria Watch: Keeping Compliant on the Bay Shoreline

Go to [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org)

### The Eden Area Board of Directors unanimously endorsed Measure F1 at a recent Board meeting.

#### Why We Need Measure F1 - Hayward Area Recreation & Park District

##### **(HARD) VOTE YES on Measure F1**

to maintain the quality of our local parks, recreation facilities, and green spaces provided by Hayward Area Recreation and Park District **(HARD)**.

**For over 70 years, the residents of Hayward, Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, Ashland, Cherryland, Fairview** and surrounding communities have enjoyed safe, clean, well-maintained parks and recreation facilities provided by HARD. *These are YOUR parks*, owned by nearly 300,000 residents living in HARD's service area.

#### Measure F1 will:

- **Improve** the safety, quality, cleanliness and attractiveness of neighborhood parks
- **Rehabilitate** children's playgrounds
- **Upgrade** restrooms at HARD sites
- **Expand** senior citizen and disabled access to parks/recreational areas
- **Create/maintain** walking paths and bike trails
- **Renovate/expand** parks, trails, and recreation areas

EVERY Measure F1 penny will benefit local HARD parks and facilities. These funds CANNOT be taken by the State or used for other purposes.

#### **Taxpayer protections are REQUIRED.**

NO funds are allowed for administrators' salaries or pensions. Independent Citizens' Oversight and mandatory audits will ensure funds are spent properly. There is NO Argument against Measure F1.



**November 8**

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,  
 2<sup>nd</sup> 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	PLACE
Oct. 4 (Tues) 6pm	National Debate Watch Event...Page 3	CV & SLZ Library
Oct. 5 (Wed) 7pm	San Leandro City Council Candidate Forum	San Leandro Library
Oct. 6 6:30 pm	SLZ School District Board Candidate Forum	San Lorenzo Library
Oct. 9 (Sun 6 pm)	National Debate Watch Event...Page 3	CV & SLZ Library
Oct. 11 (Tues) Noon-1	Pro & Con Presentation, Public Health Dept.	San Leandro Health Dept.
Oct. 12 (Wed)8 am	San Leandro Breakfast Club	Puerto Bello Restaurant
Oct. 13 7 pm	Keep Our Children Safe Program on Human Trafficking	San Leandro High School (See article in VOTER)
Oct. 18 (Tues) 5 pm	Castro Valley School District & Castro Valley Sanitary District Candidate Forums	Castro Valley Library
Oct. 19 (Wed) 6pm	National Debate Watch Event...Page 3	CV & SLZ Library
Oct. 24 (Mon) 5:45pm	LWVEA Board Meeting	Hayward Area Historical Society

For up-to-date info and specific details on events, check out [www.LWVEA.org](http://www.LWVEA.org)