

**The League of
Women Voters of
Alameda**

P. O. Box 1645
Alameda, Ca 94501
www.LWVAlameda.org

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The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan organization that encourages informed and active participation in government. We work to raise understanding of major policy issues and influence public policy through education. The League does not support or oppose any political party or candidate. We advocate only on issues that members have studied and reached consensus on. In an era of proliferating powerful special interests, the League's advocacy in the public interest is increasingly recognized as an essential voice of democracy.



VOTER

**Promoting Political Responsibility through Informed
and Active Participation**

Volume 48, Number 3, March 2016

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Thur. March 31, 5:30-7:30 pm
MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS!
Community Center of Harbor Bay

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®
OF ALAMEDA

**SPEED DATE YOUR LOCAL
REPRESENTATIVES**



MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS
Thursday, March 31, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Refreshments • Silent Auction • Raffle
Tickets \$10 @ the door

Community Center of Harbor Bay Isle
3195 Mecartney Road – Bay Farm Island

INFO: www.LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html
510-908-3939 | MYPO@LWVAlameda.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Anne Spanier, co-president

League of Women Voters of Alameda

As you know, our local Alameda League is under the umbrella of the California State League and the League of Women Voter of the United States (LWVUS). Every two years, the national League asks for suggestions from the roughly 700 local Leagues across the country for possible studies and issues of emphasis to present to the national convention. In recent years, local leagues have asked for studies or updates on such topics as the death penalty, privatization, agricultural policy, and selection of the president.

The mechanism for gathering grassroots input is the local program (positions) review meeting. Local leagues are asked to review the standing positions of the LWVUS for their relevance. (A complete set of national positions ratified at conventions is available at www.lwv.org/content/impact-issues.)

Local leagues may also call for a new study when a social issue such as human trafficking gains national attention. Once a position is ratified at convention, League members across the nation can speak authoritatively on the topic in city council chambers, state houses, courts of law and the Congress.

This year the national League is asking us to focus on specific actions relating to voting rights rather than adding new studies to the agenda. This shift in priorities, which began in 2014, centers on now-completed updated studies of **CAMPAIGN FINANCING** (the previous LWVUS position predated the rise of the Super PACs) and **REDISTRICTING OF THE U.S. CONGRESS** (as a basis for state action) and on a new study now underway of the feasibility of a **CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENT**. The campaign financing and redistricting items will be presented for ratification to the June 2016 national convention.

LWVUS is working to educate Congress on a number of national bills aimed at controlling Super PACs and reforming the Federal Election Commission (FEC). They're also advocating for HR 2867, the Voter Rights Advancement Act (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2867>) supporting online voter registration, portable within-state voter registration, and reforms to provisional ballots.

Here in California; the Legislature is close to enacting AB799, the Disclose Act (www.caclean.org). The bill, which requires all political campaign advertisements to name their top three donors, passed the California Assembly and goes to the Senate for action.

Elizabeth MacNamara, President of LWVUS, has urged us all to wage an aggressive campaign to register voters and defend voters' rights in this election year. Your local LWVA leadership is committed to doing exactly this. **Please join us in this work!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more event information

- Fri. March 4th**
5:30 PM social
6:00 PM dinner
FIRST FRIDAY NO-HOST SOCIAL DINNER
C'era Una Volta, 1332 Park Street, Alameda. Members and guests welcome.
Prix fixe: \$35.00 three-course meal incl. tax and gratuity, choice of entrée.
Reserve by 5:00 PM Thursday, jeffcambra@earthlink.net, 865-7369
- Wed. March 16th**
12:00-1:00 PM
HUMAN TRAFFICKING: Community forum
Speakers: Alameda County District Attorney Nancy O'Malley, FBI Special Agent Marty Parker. Co-sponsored with AAUW and College of Alameda.
College of Alameda, 555 Ralph Appezato Way, Bldg. F.
- Thu. March 17th**
6:00-7:00 PM
LWVA HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE PROGRAM MIXER
Join League members, local media and members of the community at the College of Alameda for this exciting launch of LWVA's first annual Democracy Matters debate program! Introduced by Alice Fried & COA President Joi Lin Blake. Meet the girls who will debate on 15 April about abolishing the Electoral College and photo ID requirements for voting. Light refreshments, free parking, no permits needed.
College of Alameda, 555 Ralph Appezato Way, Bldg. F
7:00-9:00 PM
LWVA Board meeting, following the debate program launch at the College.
- Mon. March 28th**
3:00-4:30 PM
BOOK CLUB: Tortilla Curtain by T. C. Boyle
Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center
Contact Felice Zensius, felicez@ymail.com, 865-4329
- Thu. March 31st**
5:30-7:30 PM
**MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS (MYPO 2016):
Speed date your local representatives!**
Harbor Bay Community Center, 3195 Mecartney Road
Raffle, silent auction, food, drink, socializing, and more...
- Thu. April 7th**
7:00-9:00 PM
BETTER BART: COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION FORUM
Robert Raburn, District 4 representative to BART Board of Directors, & a representative from AC Transit. **Alameda Free Library**, enter from rear.
- Fri. April 15th**
6:30-8:30 PM
DEMOCRACY MATTERS: LWVA HIGH SCHOOL DEBATE
Support LWVA's high school debate scholarship program and the girls who will debate abolishing the Electoral College and voter photo ID requirements. Judges: Rob Bonta, Joi Lin Blake, Helen Hutchinson. Scholarship awards from LWVA special fund: \$1000 for winner and \$500 for runner-up.
College of Alameda, 555 Ralph Appezato Way, Bldg. F
- Thu. May 12th**
7:00-9:00 PM
ELECTIONS 2016: Community forum (date tentative)
LWVA presents June Primary local candidates and ballot propositions
- Sat. June 25th**
11:30 AM- 2:30 PM
LWVA Annual Meeting and luncheon.
Place to be announced.

Get ready to meet (and speed-date) your public officials!

Thursday March 31st, 5:30-7:30 PM
Community Center of Harbor Bay

Six things YOU can do to make MYPO 2016 a success

1. MAIL your donation of \$50.00 (5 x \$10/ticket) **TODAY** to: LWVA, PO Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501. Whether or not you use your tickets or plan to attend, please support our annual fundraiser. **Questions about payment?** Contact Marian Breitbart (510-769-1604; mbreitbart@mac.com).

2. DONATE items for the *raffle and silent auction*

For the silent auction: vacation rentals, dinners for four or six in your home, tickets (to concerts, shows, sporting events, wine tastings, etc.), gift certificates for personal or professional services, or other big-ticket items. *For the raffle:* smaller items such as bottles of wine, plants, gift baskets of fancy foods, kitchen items, home-made breads or cakes, cookbooks, etc. We need baskets for combining items!

Items to contribute? Contact Doris Gee **TODAY** (510-521-2117; dorisgee48@gmail.com).

Please arrange for pickup or delivery to Doris by March 17: we cannot accept items at the event.

3. SOLICIT merchandise or gift cards/certificates from local businesses for raffle & auction

Ideas: gift baskets (coffee/tea, beauty products, wine, other merchandise); gift certificates from retail establishments, restaurants, movie theaters, health clubs, spas, and vendors of personal or professional services. **Questions?** Contact Doris Gee (above). Need extra solicitation letters and/or flyers to give to businesses? Contact Ruth Dixon-Mueller **TODAY** (510-865-2439, dixonmueller@yahoo.com)

4. VOLUNTEER to help at the event on March 31

Help set up and decorate the community center, sell tickets at the door, greet guests and public officials, assist with speed dating, manage the food table, tend bar, sell raffle tickets, organize and monitor the raffle and auction tables, encourage people to bid, take photos, recruit new members, clean up, etc.

Volunteer TODAY! Contact Marian Breitbart (510-769-1604; mbreitbart@mac.com).

5. BRING appetizers and/or wine to the event

Food is up to us this year! Finger food: fruit, cheese and crackers/bread, deviled eggs, sliced sandwiches or wraps, chips and dip, cold cuts, crudité's, cookies/brownies, etc. Beverage donations welcome at the bar. **What will you bring? Call Ruth TODAY** (510-865-2439; dixonmueller@yahoo.com).

6. ATTEND MYPO 2016 and **SPEED DATE** your public officials

Bring your friends, enjoy the food and wine, get great deals on raffle and silent auction items, and meet new people. Greet your Mayor and City Council, Health Care and School District board members, police and fire chiefs, city staffers, and many more! (Thirty-seven invited POs attended MYPO 2015!)

Questions about MYPO? Contact Deborah Wright (510-908-3939; MYPO@LWVAlameda.org)

Thank you for donating and volunteering!



Introducing Your Board members

Dorothy Kerwin (formerly Fullerton), Voter Services Chair

I joined the League of Women Voters in Alameda in early 1982. I had recently moved to Alameda with my family and was looking for volunteer opportunities and kindred spirits. I certainly found the right place. I have participated in almost every part of League, but my particular interest is Voter Education. I started out with the Voter Registration project, placing registration information at various locations in town. From there, under Joanne McCray's excellent direction, I learned to organize community forums on pros and cons for the propositions on the June and November ballots. The final step was learning to organize the candidate forums.

I have learned so much in my years with League, in addition to making lifelong friends. I can address a group of almost any size, and have even learned to slow down when I talk (at least a bit). I've learned that candidate forums are the proverbial "herding cats" exercise, but it all manages to work out. Mostly I have learned that people drawn to League are incredibly hard workers and can be depended on to come through at any given time. Thank you to all who make our League work.

VOTER REGISTRATION VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
CALL DOROTHY at 769-9159 or email kerwindorothy@gmail.com

Registration will take place at the College of Alameda, Bldg. F

WED. March 16, 11:30AM – 1:30PM (Human Trafficking forum)

FRI. April 15, 6:00PM – 8:00PM (High school debate)

WED. April 20, 11:30AM – 1:30 PM (Film)

IMPORTANT: Draft Revisions of LWVA Local Positions

The February 2016 VOTER contained revised wording of six local positions as approved by the LWVA Board on Jan 21 (LWVAlameda.org/Newsletter.html). The LIBRARY position was further revised and Board approved on Feb. 18. References to types of diversity were deleted and references to funding sources, changing library uses and technologies, and the Library Strategic Plan added. Changes in LWVA positions will be voted on at the annual meeting on Sat. June 25th.

LIBRARY (1991, 2016)

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) supports a public library system that meets the diverse needs of all Alamedans. Funding for the Alameda Free Library should be increased. If the Library receives additional funds through taxes, bond measures or grants/gifts, General funds should not be reduced. Hours of service for the Main and neighborhood libraries should be increased, including weekend and evening hours, as well as space for library functions. Library resources should reflect changing uses and technologies, with an emphasis on popular materials, reference, and children's sections. LWVA urges the City Council to approve the Library Strategic Plan, including its mission and goals, and to support a viable library system in Alameda.

CALIFORNIA NEWS from LWVC.org

Vote with the League – Yes on Prop 50!

We support Proposition 50 on the June 7 ballot!

- This constitutional amendment would give each house of the Legislature clear authority to suspend, with a two-thirds vote, a member *and* withhold pay and benefits.
- Prop 50 is a straightforward way for lawmakers to hold their own colleagues accountable for breaching the public's trust.
- Such actions are highly unusual. Over the years, five senators have been expelled, and several senators accused of corruption resigned in 1985. The Assembly has never suspended or expelled a member.
- Read more about how the League takes a position on a ballot measure.

Get ready for new League legislative action!

Last month, League members and supporters urged their Assembly Members to support AB 350 (Alejo) which will improve the California Voting Rights Act. This bill passed the Assembly 50-25 and is starting its progress through the Senate.

Be sure you're prepared to advocate as we act on both "two-year bills" and newly introduced legislation.

- Keep an eye on the LWVC Bill Status Report to follow bills we are working on.
- Sign up for action alerts to advocate on the issues you care about.

Join the Alameda League or renew your membership today!



Name _____

Other Names _____
(if a family membership)

Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

\$70 Single Membership \$97 Family Membership free Student Membership (full-time, voting age, enroll by mail only) Dues year is Jan 1 – Dec 31. Dues assistance available for those on limited income: e-mail membership@LWVAlameda.org or call 865-2439. Printed and mailed VOTER ADD \$10 (e-mailed newsletter on the first of the month with LWVA's e-blast is free).

Please make check payable to LWV Alameda and mail to: LWVA, P. O. Box 1645, Alameda, CA 94501.
Membership dues are tax deductible. To pay online, visit LWVAlameda.org/join.html.

Consider making an additional tax-deductible contribution to LWVA today!