

The League of Women Voters of Alameda

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

The VOTER is published by the
LWVA Communications Committee.
Current and past issues of the VOTER
are posted on LWVAlameda.org.

President: Alice Fried
alicefried89@gmail.com

VP Administration:
Ruth Dixon-Mueller
Dixonmueller@yahoo.com

VP Programs: Patricia Young
PYoung098@gmail.com

VP Membership: Doris Gee
Dorisgee48@gmail.com

Treasurer: Marian Breitbart
mbreitbart@mac.com

Secretary: Cynthia Silva
Cynthia.silva26@yahoo.com

Action Co-Chair: Karen Butter
karenbutter@comcast.net

Action Co-Chair: Felice Zensius
Felicez@ymail.com

Communications: Georgia Gates
t.derr@comcast.net

Voter Service: Dorothy Kerwin
kerwindorothy@gmail.com

E-mail manager: Keasha Martindill
KBjbarretts@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster: Lisa Yap
lyap22@hotmail.com

Voter Editor: Mari Clark
meclark922@gmail.com

The League of Women Voters 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 on which a consensus has been reached. 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 9, November-December 2016

VOTER CONTENTS: Calendar p. 2; Five Forums p. 3; Members' news p. 4;
Money in Politic\$ Ballot propositions p. 5; Vote with the League p. 6



GET VOTING!

President's Message by Alice Fried

In the spirit of the season, let me say that I am thankful that there is such an organization as the League of Women Voters of Alameda and that I am a part of the great work it does. But as your President, I am mostly thankful for the tremendous effort you have made to carry out the League's mission in what has been dubbed by many as one of the most important elections of our time.

As members of the LWVA, it is our responsibility to provide advice and insight voters can trust in order to make informed decisions on Election Day. Thanks to you, the LWVA produced five of the most publicized and well-attended candidate and issues forums in our history. Our panels made ballot propositions easier to understand and our candidate forums energized the electorate. We must continue to engage our community by encouraging everyone to get the information they need from www.votersedge.org/ca to cast a confident vote on Election Day.

As voter suppression laws are struck down throughout the country, I am thankful that the California League supported the implementation of opt-out voter registration at the DMV, providing access to more citizens. In addition, this year the LWVA registered voters at the Alameda Free Library on National Voter Registration Day using on-line and conventional methods of registration. Congratulations!

Again, thank you for working on LWVA committees—Action, Communications, Programs, Membership, Voter Services, Youth Outreach, and others. Your collaborative efforts, your energy, your belief in common-good governance policies as well as your desire to inform the community, support the infrastructure of our society. Thanks to you, voters have the information they'll need to cast a vote that will ensure that our democracy works for all. **Now let's get voting!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Visit LWVAlameda.org/calendar.html for more information

- TUE. NOV. 8** **ELECTION DAY! *******
- THU. NOV. 17** **LWVA BOARD MEETING**
7:00-9:00 PM All LWVA members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.
Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Ave. @ Willow, Conference Room C.
- SAT. NOV. 19** **POLITICAL PARTIES, POLLS & THE POLITICS OF GENDER:**
2:00-4:00 PM **Post-election reflections...**
RACHEL BERNHARD, Dept. of Political Science, UC Berkeley.
Coffee/tea at 2:00; presentation & discussion 2:30-4:00.
Cardinal Point Retirement Community, 2431 Mariner Square Drive.
Please RSVP to Ruth, dixonmueller@yahoo.com , 865-2439. \$10 donation.
- MON. NOV. 28** **BOOK CLUB.** *A Woman in Berlin: Eight Weeks in the Conquered City*,
3:00-4:30 PM by Anonymous & Marta Hillers. Contact felicez@ymail.com, 865-4329.
Applebee's Restaurant, 2263 South Shore Center.
- SUN. DEC. 11** **ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY**
5:00 PM **Potluck** social gathering for members and guests at the home of Shubha and
Kumar Fanshe, 19 Kilkenny Place (Bay Farm Island) shubhaf09@gmail.com
- NO BOARD MEETING or BOOK CLUB IN DECEMBER**
- HAPPY NEW YEAR! 2017**
- THU. JAN. 19** **LWVA BOARD MEETING**
7:00-9:00 PM All LWVA members are invited to attend monthly Board meetings.
Alameda Hospital, 2070 Clinton Ave. @ Willow, Conference Room C.
- FRI. JAN. 20** **INAUGURATION DAY CEREMONY: WATCH AT THE LIBRARY!**
8:00 AM Swearing-in ceremony at 9:00 AM (noon in Washington DC)
Alameda Free Library, 1550 Oak @ Lincoln. LWVA is cosponsor.
- THU. JAN. 26** **OPEN MEETING & LEAGUE POSITIONS REVIEW**
7:00-9:00 PM **Alameda Hospital**, 2070 Clinton Ave. @ Willow, Room A (second floor)
- LOOKING FORWARD:**
- THU. MAR. 30** **MEET YOUR PUBLIC OFFICIALS (MYPO) MIXER & FUNDRAISER**
5:30-7:30 Speed date your representatives; auction, raffle, food, drinks. ENJOY!
Community Center at Harbor Bay Isle, 3195 Mecartney Road, Alameda
- SAT. JUNE 24** **LWVA ANNUAL MEETING LUNCHEON**
11:30-2:00 Venue to be announced.

LWVA'S FABULOUS FIVE VOTER EDUCATION FORUMS!

LWVA's candidates & issues forums at Harbor Bay Community Center in September and October were a big success, thanks to all of you who participated and/or attended. LWVA presented 19 candidates for local, county, district and state offices and pros and cons on all 17 State ballot propositions plus seven **Doris Gee** local measures. About 80-90 people attended Forums 1 and 2, and 40-60 attended Forums 3, 4 and 5.

Congratulations to everyone who turned this series into a master class of voter education for the League. As LWVA's President Alice Fried likes to say, "This is who we are. This is what we *do!*"

Special votes of appreciation to: **Dorothy Kerwin** for organizing and hosting the forums, with assistance from **Juelle-Ann Boyer** and **Ruth Dixon-Mueller**. * **Karen Butter** and **Felice Zensus** for providing the state and local pros and cons and League recommendations, with **Gayle Thomas**, **Georgia Gates Derr**, **Keasha Martindill**, **Sally Faulhaber** and **Kate Quick**. * **Katie Cameron** for room setup and logistics, with **Doris Gee**, **Ken Werner** and **Marian Breitbart** (timekeeper!). * **Georgia Gates Derr** and her Communications team for handling the publicity under excitingly suspenseful conditions. * Pros and cons presenters **Juelle-Ann Boyer**, **Karen Butter**, **Katie Cameron**, **Georgia Gates Derr**, **Ruth Dixon-Mueller**, **Kathryn Sáenz Duke**, **Mark Hamilton**, **Keasha Martindill** and **Felice Zensus**. And for everyone else who helped and should have been listed here, THANK YOU! It takes a village!

REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Doris L. Gee, Chair, e-mail dorisgee48@gmail.com, tel. (510) 521-2117

The Membership Committee is happy to report that we are 162 members and growing! We hope to reach 170 by December. On September 29, we had a lovely welcome tea at my house with 16 people in attendance. Lots of good conversation and a chance to welcome our newest members. The next new members' tea will be on Sunday, February 26, 2-4 PM, venue TBA.

Volunteers Needed

- **First Fridays Foodie:** Sets up a dinner at any Alameda restaurant the First Friday of each month except for July, Aug, and Dec.-Jan. beginning Feb. 2017. You will only have to set up dinners 8 times a year. You will be supported by a professional event planner, who will help with the process. This can be a two-person job. Contact Doris.
- **Minute People:** Don't have time for a year-round commitment but want to help with a specific event? Set up and breakdown at events, help at the membership table at events, occasional typing, printing, mailing, etc. Contact Doris.
- **Grant Writer for Youth Outreach Committee:** Write and submit grant funding requests to potential funding sources including Bank Of Marin, Alameda Rotary Club, others. Contact Maria D. Dominguez, mariaddominguez@gmail.com.
- **For more volunteer opportunities visit <http://lwvalameda.org/Volunteer.html>.**

Welcome to members who have joined (or rejoined) LWVA since June 2016!

John C. Baum, Roberta Bobba, Lori Cassels and Mary Ross, Rose Chastain, Serena Chen, Lorraine Cook and family (Cheikh Gueye, Chukwudi Hodge and Kumi Hodge), Susan Decker and Michael Krueger, Gilbert (Jill) Duerig, Ruby Frandsen, Mabel Harding, Susan Hauser, Patti Heimburger, Cheri Johansen, Beth Kenny and Adina Singer, Jim Oddie, Diane Rizzo, Jennifer and Todd Roloff, Mary Ross, Sharon Schainker, Deborah Smyth.



Congratulations to League member Juelle-Ann Boyer, recipient of the City of Alameda Community Service Award Volunteer of the Year. This is one of the city's top honors.

JuelleAnn was recognized for her outstanding 10+ years of service to the community by Mayor Trish Herrera Spencer and Alameda's Social Services & Human Relations Board on

October 27th at a reception at Elks Lodge.

At the awards ceremony, long-time League members (L to R) Donna Vaughan, Joan Searls, Li Volin, Audrey Lord-Hausman (winner of last year's award), Juelle-Ann Boyer and Lena Tam.

JOIN LWVA ON-LINE AT <http://lwvalameda.org/join.html>

MONEY IN POLITICS

How much has been raised (so far)* for the Nov. 2016 ballot propositions?



STATE PROPOSITION	YES	NO
51 BONDS FOR SCHOOL FACILITIES:	\$11.8 million	No info
52 PRIVATE HOSPITAL FEES FOR MEDI-CAL:	\$13.1 million	\$12.1 million
53 PUBLIC VOTE ON REVENUE BONDS:	\$4.8 million	\$13.5 million
54 CHANGES TO LEGISLATIVE PROCESS:	\$10.8 million	\$27,000
55 EXTEND TAX ON HIGH INCOME:	\$57.3 million	\$3,000
56 TOBACCO TAX:	\$30.3 million	\$71.3 million
57 PAROLE SENTENCING & COURT PROCEDURES:	\$11.6 million	\$613,000
58 ENGLISH LANGUAGE EDUCATION:	\$4.3 million	No info
59 POLITICAL SPENDING ADVISORY:	\$302,000	No info
60 CONDOMS IN ADULT FILMS:	\$4.6 million	\$458,000
61 PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS:	\$14.5 million	\$109.0 million
62 REPEAL THE DEATH PENALTY:	\$9.1 million	\$12.5 million
63 GUNS AND AMMUNITION SALES:	\$5.1 million	\$705,000
64 MAKE RECREATIONAL MARIJUANA LEGAL:	\$22.8 million	\$2,400
65 CARRY-OUT BAG CHARGES:	\$2.9 million	No info
66 DEATH PENALTY COURT PROCEDURES:	\$13.1 million	\$10.4 million
67 PLASTIC BAG BAN:	\$1.6 million	\$2.9 million

BIGGEST SPENDERS: \$\$\$\$\$

YES on 55: California Hospitals Committee on Issues \$25.1; California Teachers Association \$20.5

YES on 56: California Hospitals Committee on Issues \$10.1; Thomas F. Steyer \$7.8

NO on 56: Philip Morris \$39.0; R. J. Reynolds \$24.9

NO on 61: Merck \$9.4; Pfizer \$9.4; Johnson & Johnson \$9.3; six other pharmaceuticals \$4.0-7.0

YES on 64: Sean Parker and affiliates \$8.8; Fund for Policy Reform \$6.1

***As of Oct. 25, 2016, reported on votersedge.org/ca (“See Ballot Measures...”)**



After careful study and analysis, the League of Women Voters of California has recommendations on 11 statewide ballot measures:

- **[YES on Prop 51](#)**: California's six million students can't reach their full potential without access to safe, secure schools, in good repair and equipped to provide every student a 21st century education.
- **[YES on Prop 54](#)**: The Legislature Transparency Act will make our state government more open, honest, and accountable, by empowering all Californians to review, debate, and contribute to the laws we live under.
- **[YES on Prop 55](#)**: This measure is key in maintaining economic recovery and growth by continuing the current, higher income tax rates established in 2012 for the wealthiest two percent of Californians. Prop 55 helps our children thrive!
- **[YES on Prop 57](#)**: This measure focuses public resources on keeping dangerous criminals behind bars, while rehabilitating juvenile and adult inmates and saving tens of millions of taxpayer dollars.
- **[YES on Prop 58](#)**: Proposition 58 frees parents and their schools to provide the best educational opportunities for all California children regardless of their first language.
- **[NO on Prop 59](#)**: Eliminating the corrupting influence of money in our democracy is a vital concern. Unfortunately, this vague, poorly drafted ballot measure is not the solution.
- **[YES on Prop 63](#)**: This measure closes loopholes in our laws and helps keep deadly weapons out of dangerous hands. It regulates ammunition sales like gun sales and ensures that people who have committed serious crimes give up their guns after conviction.

A pair of competing measures, Propositions 62 and 66, deal with the death penalty:

- **[YES on Prop 62](#)**: Proposition 62 replaces the death penalty with life without the possibility of parole. The death penalty is biased and does not reduce or deter crime in California. Voting yes will save taxpayers \$150 million per year and eliminate the very real risk of executing an innocent person.
- **[NO on Prop 66](#)**: This poorly written measure would fast-track the death penalty -- denying citizens due process and greatly increasing California's risk of executing an innocent person. It raises significant constitutional issues and could cause more delays, increase taxpayers' costs, and add layers of bureaucracy.

Propositions 65 AND 67 both involve the plastic bag ban passed by the Legislature in 2014:

- **[NO on Prop 65](#)**: Large players in the plastic bag industry spent millions to put this disingenuous initiative on the ballot, creating a distraction that could thwart California's efforts to rein in plastic bag waste and litter. Don't be confused; Vote NO on 65 and vote YES on 67.
- **[YES on Prop 67](#)**: Proposition 67 will retain California's plastic bag ban. The question on a referendum like Prop 67 is not intuitive; vote YES to keep the 2014 statewide law prohibiting single-use carryout bags. Don't let out-of-state plastic bag industry players stop our progress!

[Visit our website for details on our recommendations](#) and use our [The League Recommends flyer](#).

Source: <https://lwvc.org/news/league-women-voters-california-offers-voting-recommendations-ballot-measures>.

For more information on candidates and ballot measures visit www.VotersEdge.org/ca