



## VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE

November 4, 2008

### League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

1611 Telegraph Ave., Ste. 300, Oakland, CA 94612  
510 / 839-1608 - [www.lwwba.ca.lwwnet.org/about.html](http://www.lwwba.ca.lwwnet.org/about.html)

#### **MEASURE VV      AC TRANSIT PARCEL TAX MEASURE.      SUPPORT**

- Measure VV increases the existing parcel tax dedicated to AC transit by \$4 a month for ten years.
- Annual cost to each property owner would rise from \$48 to \$96 a year.
- Funds will support AC transit bus service which is facing a \$20 million deficit, partially caused by a 55% increase in price of fuel in the past four years.
- AC Transit bus service benefits us all by providing transportation for those who cannot drive and those who cannot afford rising cost of gas.

#### **Measure WW      East Bay Regional Park Bond Measure.      SUPPORT**

- Measure WW extends a bond measure (Measure AA) passed in 1988 without raising the present property tax rates above the present rate of \$10 per year, per \$100,000 assessed valuation.
- 75% of the funds will pay for regional park acquisitions and capital projects. 25% will go to cities, special park and recreation districts and county service areas for their park and recreation services.
- Measure WW will help preserve our vanishing open space, available parklands, and shoreline for the growing number of residents of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

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#### **League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville**

1414 University Avenue, Ste. D, Berkeley, CA 94702  
510/843-8824 - [www.lwwbae.org](http://www.lwwbae.org)

#### **Measure LL: Landmarks Preservation Ordinance Referendum      SUPPORT**

Measure LL is a revision of the 1974 Landmarks Preservation Ordinance (LPO) that is now in effect. The revision was passed by the City Council and the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) in 2006, after a six-year process including multiple public hearings. Opponents of the revised LPO submitted a referendum petition that stopped the revision from taking effect without voter approval and submitted their version to the voters in 2006; voters turned it down. The revision in Measure LL differs from the 1974 version in several ways; for example: it requires Landmarks Preservation Commissioners to have certain qualifications, it requires historic resources to have "integrity" (authenticity), it repeals the power of the LPC to delay demolition of a landmark or structure of merit, it grants the LPC the authority to prohibit demolition of a landmark or structure of merit, subject to an appeal to the Council, and it specifies procedures by which a property owner may request a determination of whether his/her property is a landmark or structure of merit. Measure LL is supported by preservationists, and approved by the LPC and the City Council.

The League takes no stand on measures for which League positions do not cover the issues.



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### **Measure FF: Library Bond Measure**

**SUPPORT**

This \$26 million bond act would be used to renovate, expand and make seismic and access improvements at four neighborhood branch libraries. Two of these libraries are seismically unsafe, and all need structural improvements for safety and upgrades for new technology. Most of our branch libraries have not been renovated in more than three decades, are heavily used and embody Berkeley's commitment to remaining a City of Learning for all our residents. The bond money would be administered by the Board of Library Trustees who will be required to report yearly to the City Council on the use of the bond proceeds. The libraries receive no General Fund money from the City. Capital funds, needed for building repairs, are not available to public libraries from state or federal sources. Our libraries deserve our support.

### **Measure HH: Gann Limit**

**SUPPORT**

Measure HH asks voters to re-authorize spending of tax revenues for parks, maintenance, libraries, emergency medical services, and emergency services for disabled persons. All of these taxes were previously approved by Berkeley voters by a 2/3 majority. Two provisions in the California Constitution mandate this measure. First, Prop. 13 severely limited the level of property taxes. Then, in November, 1979, the Gann initiative was passed, establishing maximum spending limits, commonly called "Gann limits," for public programs. These limits, now set at the amount of taxes a city spent in the 1986-87 fiscal year (adjusted for inflation), can be exceeded only if the city gets a majority vote to do so every four years. Measure HH would not increase taxes nor create new taxes. It only allows the City to continue to provide the services already approved by 2/3 of the voters. Berkeley is highly responsible about its fiscal planning. It balances its budget every year, and the number of Berkeley's city employees has remained roughly constant even though some new services are being provided.

### **Measure KK: Ordinance Requiring Voter Approval of Transit-Only and HOV/Bus-Only Lanes.**

**OPPOSE**

The proposed ordinance would require preparation of a comprehensive plan for the creation of transit, HOV, or Bus-only lanes, in addition to the Environmental Impact Report and other studies that are now required, and it would require a vote of the people before the City could dedicate a public street or lane to transit, bus, or HOV-only uses. Measure KK is promoted as pro-democratic. In fact, it threatens to subvert the democratic process; the ongoing work and expertise of City Commissioners and the many public hearings held on transit issues would be irrelevant. The long, duplicative planning effort and the vote called for in Measure KK would entail costly delays, wasteful expenditures of public funds, and jeopardize opportunities to secure outside funding for projects. The proposal is a roadblock to implementing General Plan goals and policies relating to alternatives to the automobile, and it would threaten our ability to meet our goals for greenhouse gas reductions.