

Candidate Debates Online



Photo by Bob MacDonald

Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California (left) moderates a forum for candidates for California Assembly District 15, Elizabeth Echols (center) and Tony Thurmond (right).

The Assembly District 15 Forum at Berkeley City College was a terrific success—attracting 275 students and citizens—thanks to our co-sponsors Berkeleyside, Berkeley NAACP, Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, Berkeley PTA Council, BOCA, , Berkeley AAUW, and Berkeley City College Civic Engagement Club. Our dynamite Communications and Voter Services Teams—particularly Ruby MacDonald and Barb Singleton—tweeted and posted flyers and more to reach many more voters than we’ve reached in the past.

If you missed our live forums for contested seats in Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, watch individual two minute spots of the Assembly candidates and Berkeley candidates and full half-hour and hour forums on our website www.lwvbae.org as well as on YouTube/lwvbae..

Free Electricity from Your Roof?

By Bob MacDonald

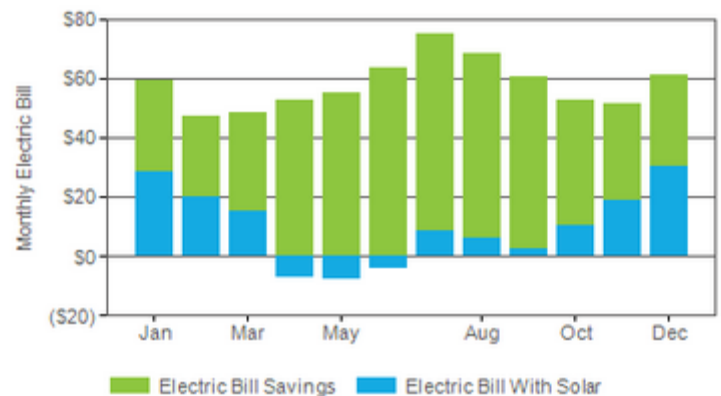
No, electricity from your roof is not actually free; only after you have paid for installing your roof solar system are you getting electricity for nothing.

The primary cost of solar electricity is the cost of the panels. Their cost has been declining about 10% per year but they are still not cheap. Also there is a DC to AC inverter and the labor of installation to be considered. It is also important to consider the future cost of the electricity that you would be replacing, namely electricity from the grid. In the past, a 3% increase per year has been typical,

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but future costs are hard to predict, especially as energy from fossil fuel becomes less common. A simple way to approximate what solar power would cost for your situation is to go to PG&E’s online Solar Calculator. You need to enter either your annual kilowatt-hours (kWh) or a typical per-month electricity (not gas!) charge. Let’s illustrate with \$50/month. Enter that then move to the next screen, where you’ll choose “zero” for energy efficiency and, under payment, choose “pay cash”. Then click on “calculate” and you will see a screen describing a system that will meet 80% of your electricity needs (it is not worth it to go higher). The most important number is “years to payback”, in this case 13.1 years, corresponding to the point at which your solar electricity really is free. Be aware that the calculation assumes a 3% increase in the cost of grid electricity. Note also that the federal tax credit (30% of the installed system cost) has already been included in the calculation. Now, if you don’t want to plunk down all that cash, go to the right side of the screen, click on “finances” and choose a loan or lease option.

You save 82% off your annual electric bill with solar
Monthly Electric Bill Savings



Readers should feel free to contact the author at macd@northwestern.edu with questions. Also, Berkeley residents can take advantage of the city’s Office of Energy and Sustainable Development, which provides free solar technical assistance through the Smart Solar program, run by Community Energy Services Corporation (phone: [510-981-7750](tel:510-981-7750))

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Candidates in contested seats from Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville and Assembly District 15 are showcased in forums online.

By Diz Swift

Free Electricity **1**

Well, not actually free. Is solar right for you?

By Bob MacDonald



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ON THE WEB

To keep up with League news, check our website regularly at <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news/>

What Direction Should Our League Take?

Tell Us! Tues, Jan 20, 2015, noon – 2:00p

Every year, local League members meet and discuss what direction they would like the League to take. This is your chance to express your ideas about what important issues you think the state and local League should publicize, lobby about, and spend our time and money supporting.

This is called Program Planning and is vital to our League. See more information in the next *VOTER*.

Bay Area League Day

Save the Date

Saturday, January 31st, 10:00a-2:00p
Metro Center, 101 8th Street, Oakland

Climate Change

- How are we doing in our effort to reduce greenhouse gases?
- How do we need to adapt? And by when?
- What are the effects on disadvantaged communities and how do we mitigate them?

Conversations with the League

By Sherry Smith

Tuesday, November 18, noon – 2:00p

Rev. Michael Burch on "Questioning the Rhetoric: Juvenile Justice and the Language of Democracy in Higher Education"

Experts in juvenile justice and prison reform have noted what they call "the school-to-prison pipeline", pointing to systemic developments in K-12 public school education that target ethnic minorities and low-income juveniles, putting many of them unfairly into this "pipeline". The sense one gets is that universities are the solution and K-12 inadequacies are the problem. Rev. Burch's talk will challenge this perspective and show that the university system is in one real sense a contributor to the problem rather than the solution, as colleges choose to remain selective in their admission practices.

Rev. Burch, ordained as a minister for 20 years, is the pastor at Northbrae Community Church in Berkeley. Much of his professional career has been as a professor of religion and/or athletic coach in universities (UC Davis, GTU-Berkeley, Brown University, Rhode Island College).

Tuesday, December 16, noon – 2:00p

Recap of November 4 Election

Come join us for a recap of the "meaning of it all" after the dust has settled on the election, allowing for thoughtful analysis and discussion.

"Conversations" are held in the Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room.

Environmental Concerns

By Carol Stone

Monday, November 10, Severin Borenstein will speak on net metering for solar panels and other issues on the economics of renewable energy.

Dr. Borenstein is the director of the University of California Energy Institute, E.T. Grether Professor of Business Administration and Public Policy at the Haas School of Business and Co-Director of the Energy Institute at Haas. His research focuses on business competition, strategy, and regulation. His current research projects include **the economics of renewable energy**, economic policies for reducing greenhouse gases, alternative models of retail electricity pricing, and competitive dynamics in the airline industry. Borenstein is a research associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research in Cambridge, MA and served on the Board of Governors of the California Power Exchange from 1997 to 2003. Since 2012, he has served on the Emissions Market Assessment Committee that advises the California Air Resources Board on the operation of California's Cap and Trade market for greenhouse gases. Join us for this most informative talk in an informal fireside chat atmosphere.



Monday, December 8, the Environmental Concerns Speaker series will have its **Annual Pot Luck** starting at 7:00 p.m.(30 minutes earlier than our regular meetings). Those coming should bring an easy-to-eat dish to share. We will have an interesting program which will end at 9:00.

Contact Carol Stone, action@lwvbae.org or Gail Schickele, gails@bayarea.net for more information.



Free Audubon birding classes for 4 lucky League members. Starts January 2015. Write president@lwvbae.org

Membership Report

In September-October 2014 we welcomed five new members. We also celebrate five members who have been in our League for 50 years.

New Members

Barrie Thorne
Linda Calvin
Ruby MacDonald
Ariane Hogan
Sally Francis

50-year Members

Elaine Grossberg
Sylvia McLaughlin
Barbara Stern
Georgianna Greenwood
Marilyn Couch

New Group on Economic Inequality

By Pat Kuhi

You've no doubt heard about the eroding middle class in our country. And you've also heard that most of the wealth in the U.S. is held by only a small percentage of our population. This was a topic our League brought to the LWVUS Convention and we gained significant traction. The LWVUS Board adopted Economic Inequality as part of their third tier for LWVUS Legislative Priorities for 2014.

An Economic Inequality Group is established at the LWV national level as a resource for local leagues to inform themselves and the public about the problem, its impact on democracy and possible League action. LWVBAE has formed our own Discussion Group. Members will meet once a month to discuss the above issues and participate as individuals in the National Group. The LWVBAE Group will meet at 1925 Hopkins on Friday, Oct 21, at 2 pm. This month we meet October 21. Watch the Calendar for subsequent meeting dates. Any interested League member may join. To do so, contact Pat Kuhi at pat@kuhi.net



Holiday Party

Watch the web and email for details

Donations to Our League

July-August 2014 *Elizabeth Russell, Donations Secretary*

To the LWVBAE General Fund

Ellen Ansel	John Hadsell
Jane Barrett	Anne Henderson
Jane Bergen	Ora and Kurt Huth
Berkeley Chinese Comm'y Church	<i>in memory of Elizabeth Olney Anderson</i>
Abigail Bok	Pat Kuhi
Books Inc.	Emily Loeb
Patricia Bradley	Julie Nachtwey
Bregante + Company	Trina Ostrander
Suzanne Chun	Susan Schwartz
George Crowe	Sherry Smith
Louetta Erlin	Elsa Tranter
Maryan Gong	Lloyd and Lassie Ulman

To the LWVB Foundation

Bridget Connelly and Hank Massie	Erika Kunkel
William Craig	Juanita Peterson
	Hillary Reinis

Many thanks to our donors and a special welcome and thanks to Elizabeth Russell who is our new Donations Secretary!

Board

President	Nancy Bickel
Secretary	Pat Day
Treasurer	Sarah Miyazaki
Action	Carol Stone
Program	Sherry Smith
Membership	Dean Metzger
Voter Services	Phyllis Gale

2014-2015



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Off-board

VOTER/Web Editor	Diz Swift
Climate Change	Regina Beatus
Education Action	Cathy Lynch and Dianne McNenny
Env. Concerns	Gail Schickele and Carol Stone
Health Care	Li-hsia Wang



Calendar – Locations are the LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite F, Berkeley, and area code is (510) unless otherwise noted. www.lwvbae.org/calendar

November

4	Tues	7:00a-8:00p
10	Mon	noon-1:30p
10	Mon	7:30-9:00p
12	Weds	10:30a-12:30p
13	Thurs	10:30a-12:00p
14	Fri	1:30-3:30p
17	Mon	1:30-2:30p
18	Tues	12:00-2:00p
21	Fri	1:30-3:00p

General Election

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE

Action Meeting	C. Stone	549-0959
Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
<i>Severin Borenstein, 1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley</i>		
Board Meeting	N. Bickel	526-4055
"You Are a News Source"	D. Swift	516-4055
<i>LWVBAE Team Leaders and others</i>		
Education Action Team	C. Lynch	527-2173
Health Care Team	L. Wang	848-5765
Conversation with League	S. Smith	548-1769
<i>Juvenile Justice and Higher Education</i>		
Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave, Albany		
Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904

December

8	Mon	7:30-9:00p
9	Tues	noon-1:30p
10	Weds	10:30a-12:30p
11	Thurs	1:30-3:00p
12	Fri	1:30-3:30p
12	Fri	TBD
13	Sat	12:00a
15	Mon	1:30-2:30p
16	Tues	12:00-2:00p

Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
<i>Annual Holiday Potluck, 1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley</i>		
Action Meeting	C. Stone	549-0959
Board Meeting	N. Bickel	526-4055
Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904
Education Action Team	C. Lynch	527-2173
Holiday Party	N. Bickel	526-4055
2530 San Pablo, Berkeley		
Jan-Feb VOTER Deadline	D. Swift	548-4808
Health Care Team	L. Wang	848-5765
Conversation with League	S. Smith	548-1769
<i>Recap of Nov 4 Election</i>		
Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave, Albany		

The VOTER is published 6 times a year by the League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite F Berkeley, CA 94702-2000 Telephone: 510-843-8824 Email: office@lwvbae.org

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Current and past issues of the *VOTER* are posted on our website www.lwvbae.org/newsletter

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.