



## Welcome Young Voters!



One of the biggest challenges for LWVBAE, and indeed many local Leagues throughout the country, is maintaining a diverse membership that includes young people. Only younger members can ensure the League future. To lead the charge our own Social Media Manager Adena Ishii will serve as New Membership Chair. "It's important to have

diversity in a group that works with a diverse set of people," Ishii said. "If we want involved voters we need to make sure our group represents [those] we're serving."

Ishii first became involved with the League through its program to hold mock elections at Berkeley High School, an event for which she volunteered while serving as president of the Civic Engagement Club at Berkeley City College. In 2014 the League awarded Ishii its *Spirit of the League Award* for engaging Berkeley students in community, politics and their own education as well as initiating a program to advise and assist local community college students in transferring to a four-year campus and thriving once enrolled. Ishii enrolled in community college after the 10th grade, ultimately graduating from both Berkeley City College and the Haas School of Business at UC Berkeley.

Venturing to say she's the youngest League member, Ishii applied and has served in the Social Media Manager position since October. "As an Asian young person, I felt out of place at the League," she said. Most people see it as something only older people join, but we have the potential to have all kinds of people." Ishii said that while it's true some young people are apathetic or don't believe their vote has the power to change the system, other young people care and are engaged, "but don't know things like the League exist."

To bridge that gap, Ishii plans to develop more social media and events to connect with the League's underrepresented populations and adopt membership recruiting ideas from other local Leagues. Ishii summed up her optimistic outlook for her new position saying, "Sometimes the smallest changes can make the biggest difference."

## Members Will Decide League Policy on Public Higher Education at Consensus Meeting March 15, 2016, 12:15 pm

Add your voice to forming the California League's official policy positions on public higher education. LWVBAE members can participate in our League's policy recommendations at the Consensus meeting on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at the Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge Street (near the downtown BART station), Berkeley, in the 3rd Floor Community Meeting Room. The meeting starts at 12:15 pm.

Some questions members will discuss and decide on March 15th are: What is the purpose of California's system of public higher education? Should everyone, regardless of preparation for college, have access to higher education? Should tuition for public higher education be free? How should we fund California's system of public higher education? Should students be able to start earning college credits while still in high school? What strategies should the California public higher education system use to increase attainment of a baccalaureate degree?

The decisions LWVBAE and other California Leagues make on these questions will decide LWV California's policies on higher education; these policies will be the basis for LWVC decisions on whether to support or oppose future ballot measures and legislation. Understanding these issues will help the League adopt an official position on public higher education. Local Leagues will be able to use these positions to advocate for or against policies and legislation affecting higher education.



Join us in deciding these important education policy issues! Local committee members will present study information and lead a stimulating discussion. I will be there, and hope you'll join me! - Carol Thomas,

Higher Education Study Committee Chair

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## Onward to the 2016 November Elections! We need your help in researching, analyzing and describing upcoming local ballot measures

It's not too soon to begin preparing our local voter information and recommendations for the 2016 November election. Our city councils and school boards are in the process now of discussing what measures to put before the voters in November, a process that includes tax rate comparisons, community surveys and voter polling. There will most likely be tax renewals, perhaps a new bond measure for capital improvements, and charter amendments that address fair elections and representation.

These decisions will be made and confirmed for the ballot this summer before the governing bodies go on recess. That is when we, members of the League, jump into action. We will have a few short weeks to research issues, develop background information, write pros and cons for our voter guides AND convene our membership to decide which issues we support, oppose or take no position on.

Voters in all our communities depend upon the League's election information, careful analysis and opinions to inform them and guide them through the election. It may be one of the most visible and appreciated activities we do.

**We need your help** tracking the issues in Berkeley, Albany or Emeryville. **Ballot measure analysis includes:** interviewing advocates from differing perspectives; writing balanced analyses and fair, nonpartisan "pro and con" positions for each measure. Each ballot measure write-up will be used in two ways:

- for Action: to help members and board decide whether to support, oppose or take no position on each measure
- for Voter Services: to publish in our "Busy Voters Guide" and our website in a brief Busy Voters Guide format and possibly more detailed Pros & Cons format.

If you are interested, contact Jill Martinucci at [actionjill@lwvbae.org](mailto:actionjill@lwvbae.org) or Phyllis Gale at [voterservices@lwvbae.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvbae.org).

Jill Martinucci & Diz Swift, Action Co-Coordination;  
Phyllis Gale, Voter Services Coordinator

# Bay Area League Day Targets Transportation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



Metropolitan Transportation Commission

The annual Bay Area League Day hosted by LWV Bay Area on February 6, 2016 in San Pablo revealed recent developments and pressing concerns in

transportation for Leaguers eager for an update on this topic of practical importance in their day-to-day lives.

**Keynote speaker State Senator Jim Beall**, chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Housing, set a tone of anxiety over the perpetually insufficient revenue for transportation generally and road maintenance in particular, a concern echoed by speakers on three subsequent panels.

**Three speakers on Funding** stressed the difficulty of passing state funding because it requires a two-thirds vote in the legislature while local funding comes from voter approved sales taxes. Sales taxes impact low-income families more than wealthier families even though revenue for transportation ultimately benefits everyone.

**The Innovation and Technology** panel dealt with new ways for organizations to influence transit choices by workers, for example, by altering parking options and reducing traffic with HOV (high occupancy vehicle) lanes designed to “promote social equity.” Promoting social equity can be tricky, however. Traffic Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber, which gained support because they created jobs, are now thought to be increasing traffic because they charge less than licensed taxis. Whether traffic congestion will be tamed in the future remains uncertain despite technological advances such as driverless cars.

**The panel on Cultural Changes Impacting Transportation** discussed changes made by government agencies like the San Francisco Department of the Environment, activist non-profits like Genesis which collaborate to promote inclusion of underserved communities, and

businesses like CALSTART, which is borrowing greener bus technology to make truck operation more climate friendly.

Given the wealth of material on transportation heard by the League Day audience and briefly covered here, it's not surprising that Bay Area League Day continues to attract Leaguers, including LWVBAE members Deborah Malbec, Helene Lecar, Sherry Smith, Christine Wenrich, Jean Safir, Mim Hawley and Adena Ishii. League member Ken Bukowski's videos of the event can be viewed on his regional-video.com website. Link for Sen. Beall's talk: <http://regional-video.com/lwv-senator-jim-beall-feb-6-2016-bayarea-league-day-san-pablo-ca/>

- Ruby MacDonald



Photo: R.MacDonald

**VOTER'S EDGE** - LWV California's **SmartVoter** continues its partnership with **MapLight** (a nonpartisan research organization that reveals money's influence on politics) to cover the 2016 elections. Look for more information about **Voter's Edge California** in the May-June Voter.

## Solving the Climate Crisis: Carbon Pricing 101



A forum describing the basics and complexities of carbon pricing and some proposed systems, followed by audience questions and discussion, sponsored by the

Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, Citizen's Climate Lobby, David Brower Center, Ecology Center, Sierra Club (San Francisco Bay Chapter), and the League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville who moderated. See: <http://lwvbae.org/CarbonPrice101>

*con't next column*



## Volunteers Needed for Short Fun Annual Meeting Planning and Day of Activities

• Annual Meeting May 19, 2016 •

This year, we have some opportunities to help plan the Annual Meeting on May 19th, 2016.

Do *you* want a say in our guest speaker?  
Are *you* a person with a flair  
for table decorations?  
Would *you* like to plan the menu?

If so, I'd love to work with you on planning and executing a terrific evening for our members and their guests. We need volunteers to:

1. Choose a topic of interest and invite a dynamic and relevant guest speaker
2. Run the food committee - menu, catering, set-up, clean-up, beverages
3. Decorate and set tables
4. Staff and supply the welcome table, and greet our great members and their guests

It would be terrific to have a mix of our seasoned members who have hosted wonderful meetings for us in the past and also some League members who are new to this task, but love to throw a great party. Please join me in planning and hosting our Annual celebration of all that is our Berkeley Albany Emeryville League. I can be reached by email at [lesslyfield@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lesslyfield@sbcglobal.net) or by phone at 526-3676. Please contact me with your interest as soon as possible so that we can get together, make our tasks lists and assure ourselves that we've got an easy-to-execute plan.

Working with you to  
keep our League  
connected,

- Lessly Field,  
Program Director



## More Efficient Strategies to Turn Out Under-Represented Voters in Berkeley

To address the dismal 30 percent turnout of Berkeley voters of all ages and 8 percent turnout of young Berkeley voters 18 to 24 years old in 2014, the Voter Services Team has been soliciting advice and support from teachers, administrators and students in the Berkeley Unified School District on strategies for boosting voting.

To help register Berkeley voters, we are organizing three projects: 1) Voter registration forms will be delivered to Berkeley High School Social Studies teachers so that, at their convenience, they may be able to

supervise completion of the forms by students who will be 18 by election day. League members will collect and deliver forms to the Alameda County Registrar. 2) We will take advantage of the upcoming Berkeley High orientation sessions at King, Longfellow and Willard Middle Schools for parents of 9<sup>th</sup> grade students. LWVBAE Voter Services Team will distribute voter registration forms. 3) Parents of elementary school students will be able to register to vote at each of Berkeley's elementary schools during or after school events in the spring.

Getting Out the Vote (GOTV) - the second essential step in improving turnout - will be challenging. Among the options being considered are 1) low cost social media campaigns, 2) higher cost catchy visuals in BART stations and on AC Transit buses, and 3) publicity on radio stations and in newspapers. We also plan to work with groups of young people at Berkeley High, Berkeley City College and UCB and with other community organizations on joint election projects.

To volunteer please contact [VoterServices@lwvbae.org](mailto:VoterServices@lwvbae.org).





**LWVBAE  
Natural Resources:  
Environmental Concerns  
Speaker Series**

**In the News:**

**Reflections on Climate Change From Paris**

Paris was the spotlight of the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties (COP21) in December where 196 nations including China and the United States came together to address the global climate crisis. Environmental Concerns' firsthand reports came from COP21 attendees **Tom Kelly**, Executive Director and Founder of Kyoto USA non-profit that encourages local governments, school districts and communities to reduce GHGs; and **Claire Greensfelder**, from the women's Global Call for Climate Justice, a coalition of more than 24 international environmental, women's and human rights networks from across the world.

"We have a climate agreement in place, it's not perfect... but it's a major step forward," Greensfelder said. "It's only going to be as good as we make it."



Greensfelder said we've reduced from 24 tons CO2 per person per year to about 17 tons; Kelly pressed getting to Zero. The point, they agreed, is commitment to efficiency, conservation and renewables and being mindful of consumerism – "We don't need three cars and houses – in Europe they live smaller and buy less," she said. "We're going to inch our way there," Kelly said. "[Congress'] extension of the investment tax credit -- making solar on homes more affordable - is a big step."

Greensfelder concluded, "We have to look at our way of life... Look at a smaller scale local level, so much can be done at the local level. We can do it. We have a lot of good work to do. There's no time to waste."

**Environmental Concerns Speaker Series  
Second Mondays September to May 7:30-9 pm**

**1174 Euclid Avenue** (at Chrystal Way, just north of Eunice) in north Berkeley (house is set back from the street. Go through the gate on the path from the street), the home of Jeanette Zerneck and Mark Nyman. Enter in rear of house. Contacts: Carol Stone 510-549-0959 or Gail Schickele [gail.schickele@gmail.com](mailto:gail.schickele@gmail.com)

**David Lewis, Executive Director  
Reports on Save the Bay  
Monday, March 14 7:30-9 pm  
1174 Euclid Ave., North Berkeley**

David Lewis, executive director of Save the Bay, one of the Bay Area's most prominent grassroots environmental groups, will give an overview of their ongoing work on Monday March 14, 2016.



Save the Bay is largest regional organization working to protect the San Francisco Bay from over-development and pollution since its inception in 1961. Lewis will share information regarding the June 2016 ballot measure that would raise \$500 million over 20 years to fund Bay restoration projects. If passed, funding from the "Clean and Healthy Bay Ballot Measure" would support wetlands restoration projects reducing pollution to Bay waters, develop more wildlife habitat, expand trails and recreation opportunities along Bay shorelines, and protect shoreline communities from flooding.

Save the Bay's recent work also includes a scientific report released in 2015 that addresses how the Bay Area's ecosystems should be managed with the threat of climate change. Through the Oro Loma Horizontal Levee, Save the Bay is creating new habitat that could model how the region will adapt to rising sea levels.

***Remembering Sylvia McLaughlin...***

Sylvia McLaughlin, the prominent environmentalist, LWV supporter and co-founder of Save the Bay who spent more than 50 years fighting to safeguard the San Francisco Bay from development and pollution, died at her Berkeley home in January. She was 99. When McLaughlin and her friends Kay Kerr and Esther Gulick started the grassroots environmental campaign to stop Berkeley's plan to fill in 2,000 acres of the Bay, many saw it as one of the first grassroots environmental movements of the 20th century. After successfully stopping Berkeley's plans, the trio of iconic female environmentalists began work to stop other similar projects in the Bay. McLaughlin's friendly but determined attitude put her in the main public speaking role for the women's efforts and she was known to encourage her supporters with the phrase: "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

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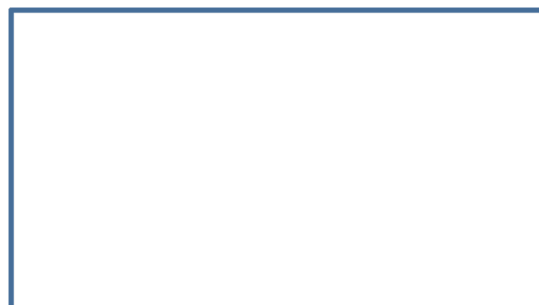
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## Calendar

Locations and details may change. Before attending please check our on-line calendar at [www.lwvbae.org/calendar](http://www.lwvbae.org/calendar). Area code is (510) unless otherwise noted.

### March

5 Sat	10:00a-12:00p	Higher Ed Study Team	C. Thomas	928-8246
7 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
10 Thu	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	J.Martinucci	847-4797
14 Mon	7:30-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
15 Tues	12:15-4:15p	Higher Education Consensus @ Berkeley Main Library	C. Thomas	928-8246
15 Tues	7:00-8:30p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904
19 Sat	10:00a-12:00p	Education Study Committee Wrap up meeting	C. Thomas	928-8246
21 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Meeting	P. Gale	508-4389
24 Thur	7:00-8:30p	Berkeley Lab Climate Change Conversation place TBD	D. Malbec	527-8683

### April

4 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
11 Mon	7:30-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
14 Thu	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	J.Martinucci	847-4797
18 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
19 Tues	7:00-8:30p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904

### May

2 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
9 Mon	7:30-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
12 Thu	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	J.Martinucci	847-4797

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