



## CA Higher Education Study: Join Us Consensus Questions & Study Guide Ready

The State Education Study is moving along - but it's not too late to join the local study group - which meets at our League offices at 2530 San Pablo Ave. the third Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. So in November that will be the 21<sup>st</sup>. Our committee is working jointly with the Oakland, Piedmont, Eden Area and Fremont, Newark, Union City Leagues.

The scope of the study is large, so plenty of reading and meaty issues for everyone. The questions will cover: the purpose of public higher education, equitable access, affordability, student preparedness, and opportunities as well as barriers to success.

Links to the Consensus Questions and the study guide and background materials are at [lwvc.org/study/education-0](http://lwvc.org/study/education-0).

Hans Johnson, Senior Fellow of the Public Policy Institute of California, and Chris Hoene, Executive Director of the California Budget Policy Center, will introduce some of the issues of the study November 19<sup>th</sup> from 6 - 8 pm. Both their institutes made very important reports on loss of access to higher education in 2015, according to Leslie Smith, Chair of the joint League committee. Check the League website Calendar for location and details.

At Consensus Meetings in March, at several times and locations, members will hear background presentations from committee members and have a chance to discuss and decide on the policy questions.

- Nancy Bickel, President

## What Should We Study and Take Action on Next Year?

If you have ideas about what the National League should be working on in 2016-18 or our own Local League in 2016-17, please bring your proposals to the Program Planning Meeting on December 15 at 12:15 at the Albany Library, 1247 Marin.

There are two changes in our approach to Program Planning this year. First, we will be making our program planning proposals in December, instead of January. Second, responsibility for Program Planning has been moved to the

*Con't p. 3*



## The League Takes Action Through Local Lobbying

Building on the foundational work done by last year's LWVBAE board members, the 2015-16 Action Team has seized opportunities to continue advocating for good wages, good government and action on climate change. Co-chaired by Diz Swift and Jill Martinucci, the Team - with approval from the LWVBAE board - has proposed letters to local City Councils on issues that promote our League priorities.

**Minimum Wage, Berkeley and Emeryville.** Empowered by the LWVUS position that "social policy in the United States should promote self-sufficiency... and that the most effective social programs are those designed to prevent or reduce poverty," LWVBAE sent a letter to the Berkeley City Council to support raising the local minimum wage. We requested that the Council provide a full hearing to the viewpoints and economic needs of all stakeholders, including workers, business people, and customers. The Council will discuss the second phase increase at a special meeting November 10. A similar letter was presented to the Emeryville City Council in early 2015 thanks to the alertness of member Barb Singleton. The ECC approved an increase to \$12.25/hour for small businesses and \$14.25 for large businesses.

**Public Funding of Elections, Berkeley.** Our national League position on campaign finance stresses that public funding combats corruption and undue influence, enables candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and promotes citizen participation in the political process. Last year's board - led by President Nancy Bickel and Action Coordinator Carol Stone - supported public funding at the local level in a letter to City Council. This local measure would extend opportunities

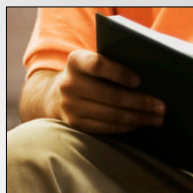
*Con't p. 5*



Join us for our Annual  
**Holiday Open House**  
Friday, December 11, 6 - 9 pm

Celebrate with us and all our neighbors  
Food, drink and music  
2530 San Pablo Avenue at Parker  
Berkeley

# IN THIS ISSUE



**CA Higher Education Study 1**

**Local Action  
Through Local Lobbying 1**

**Sherry Smith Awarded  
“Spirit of the League” 2**



**Climate Team 5**  
*“Solving the Climate Crisis:  
Carbon Pricing 101”  
David Brower Center, Berkeley*

## Also In This Issue:

Community Luncheon	3
Climate Legislation Passes	4
Environmental Concerns Speaker Series	4
Money In Politics	4
Voter Services	5

## Welcome New Members:

Jac Asher • Hon. Carole Kennerly • Robert Moore  
Kay Schwartz • Tom Vargo and Jan Vargo  
Madeleine Waters • Welcome back Claudia Berger

## Donations

Jane Barrett	Angharad Jones
Jane Bergen	Helene Lecar
Judith Bloom	Karen Nelson
Abigail Bok	Therese Pipe
Mary Lou Breiman	Ursula Rolfe
Suzanne Chun	Elizabeth Russell
George Crowe	Susan Schwartz
Molly Fracker	Sherry Smith
Jinky and Michael Gardner	Diz and Charley Swift
Leo Goodman	Monica Thyberg
Bonnie Hamlin	Gordon and Evelyn Wozniak
Ora Huth	

## In-Kind Gifts:

Books Inc. • Gorgeous and Green Florists  
Nahid Nassiri of Bay Sotheby's International Realty  
Special thank you to Ken Bukowski  
for video recording the annual luncheon

*Many thanks to our Donors  
- Elizabeth Russell, Donations Secretary*

**Your membership payments and contributions to LWVBAE,  
now a 501(c)(3) organization, are tax-deductible.**

## LWVBAE Honors Sherry Smith With “Spirit of the League” Award

Well-spoken, dedicated, thoughtful, and well-informed – these words describe Sherry Smith who received the “Spirit of the League” award at our Fall Meeting October 8. “I know no one more deserving of the award than Sherry,” said colleague Diz Swift. “She inspired me to become active in the League, as she has done for many others. Her slow, incisive voice is regarded with respect in our many League discussions. She speaks with honesty and a refreshing directness based on valid information and her long experience in government.”

Smith said, “I’m proud to be a League member. The League is a respected organization with an honored brand.” When asked what she liked best about the League, she answered, “the camaraderie.”



Photo by Jill Martinucci

**Sherry Smith is awarded “Spirit of the League” at the Fall Meeting by LWVBAE President Nancy Bickel**

“Sherry is a collegial person, offering her special knowledge and respecting that contributed by others,” said Swift. “She took on the leadership role at a time we needed a strong leader and guided us to a more streamlined organization.”

Smith has been a League member for over 30 years, serving 12 years as an officer or Board member and more than six years as president or co-president. Retired from service as League president, Smith continues to be a valuable contributor to our League as well as to the Bay Area League. As Education Fund Vice President of LWVBA, Smith oversees The Bay Area Monitor Project, which covers primarily transportation, air quality, water, open space and land use regional issues on behalf of the 20 Leagues in the 9-county Bay Area. A lawyer with a long history of civic involvement, Smith served for eight years on both the Civic Arts Commission and the Police Review Commission and chaired both. She taught lawyers and judges in continuing education for 23 years, and served on the Board of KQED Public Broadcasting for six years.

“This is an historic, proud, but modern organization,” Smith said. “The only way to thrive is to be relevant. You don’t learn how to be relevant alone; you have to rely on others, and you need to listen,” she said.

Congratulations, Sherry. We’re honored to have you as a member.

- Diz Swift and Gail Schickele

## Spirit of the League Awardee 2015:

### Senator Hancock Addresses Community Luncheon

Senator Loni Hancock recalled fondly many interactions with the League working on shared goals. She appreciates LWV California's current support of Senate Constitutional Amendment [SCA] 5 which would amend the California Constitution, make the tax system more fair, and raise money for schools as well as local government.

Senator Hancock's remarks and a recording of the event by League member Ken Bukowski are posted on the League website at: <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news/2015-annual-luncheon/>



Photo by Alec MacDonald

Senator Hancock with Berkeley READS literacy program honored at the Luncheon. Pictured from left, Alma Hernandez-Miller, Stanley Durden, Michael Mayo, Berkeley READS Director Linda Sakamoto-Jahnke, Senator Hancock, Patricia Camacho, Faye Combs, Alem Belet.

Of particular concern to her is that that young people have real opportunity through education that develops their particular talents and keeps them from failing in school and falling into the prison system.

Hancock is hopeful that the new Local Control Funding Formula for K-12 education and the critical thinking focus of the new Common Core Standards will greatly improve an education for California children. Schools, she said, are not getting enough money. Too few want to go into teaching and 50 percent of beginning teachers leave within five years.

Because global warming makes lowering greenhouse gases in the environment essential, Hancock was disturbed that SB 350, written by DeLeon and Leno, had to compromise by dropping the reduction of emissions from oil and gas. The bill as passed will help those at all income levels have more energy efficient vehicles and homes, she reported.

As chair of Senate committees on public safety and corrections, Hancock works on prison reform. She contrasted her visit to a prison in Norway with conditions in California prisons. The Norwegian focus was on rehabilitation. All employees were part of a team; the guards' job was to model good behavior for the prisoners. Loss of freedom was the punishment in the Norwegian system - not the conditions of confinement.

The U.S. has the greatest number of people incarcerated of any country, followed by Russia then by China, Hancock reminded the audience. Among many other problems in the justice system, two-thirds of people awaiting trial must stay in county jails as they can't make bail, so the poor are punished even before conviction and have less opportunity to keep their jobs and lives undamaged or defend themselves in court. Overcrowding in California prisons has been found to be cruel and unusual

### Study and Action for Next Year from p. 1

Action Coordinators, Jill Martinucci and Diz Swift. This is the arrangement in most Leagues, LWVC President Helen Hutchison pointed out. She served as Action and Program Director for LWVC before becoming President. The rationale is that the studies of policy issues become policy positions which Action leaders then apply to lobby for and against particular proposed laws and government actions.

On the local level, Climate Change and Education are our highest priorities for advocacy and public education in the 2015-2016 program year. These were proposed at last year's Program Planning meeting, approved by the Board and confirmed by members at the Annual Meeting. As the year has taken shape, Climate Change has indeed been a top action and education priority.

The focus on education has shifted to the CA Study of Higher Education going on right now. (See story page 1)

On the national level, the current studies of the Constitutional Amendment and Money in Politics were proposed by many leagues and the national board and confirmed by the delegates to the 2014 National Convention. National legislative priorities are selected by the national Board.

If you have a proposal you think is important and timely, prepare to present it by researching existing local, state and national positions. You can find them listed on our website [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org) by clicking on "about" at the top of the page and selecting Policy Positions. State and National Positions are given "in brief" - be sure to read the full position on the relevant website or in the publications in the League office. Then write a brief proposal stating why the proposal is urgent and timely, what the relevant League positions are - or whether there is no relevant position. Bring your proposal to the meeting. Jill or Diz will be glad to help you navigate the positions. Email Diz at [action@lwvbae.org](mailto:action@lwvbae.org) and Jill at [actionjill@lwvbae.org](mailto:actionjill@lwvbae.org).

- Nancy Bickel, President

---

### Con't from previous column

punishment by the courts. California had to transfer many prisoners to county jails or release them. Hancock favors major prison reform based on thorough reconsideration of our goals and social justice standards, rather than just short term fixes.

Responding to an audience question, Hancock said that affordable housing is now being hotly discussed. She saw opportunities in green buildings constructed near transit corridors and in "in-law" houses or apartments, second units built on single family lots.

As the crowd rustled, Loni Hancock ended dramatically with a paraphrase of Martin Luther King's speech, "The arc of history is long but it bends toward justice."

- Christine Wenrich, Board Secretary

- Con't next column



## California Climate Legislation Victory!

Our Climate Change Team actively supported LWVC and other environmental groups that waged a hard fight to help pass two major climate change bills. SB 350 (de León and Leno), passed with some changes, and SB 32 (Pavley) moved to the next legislative session. SB 350 had three elements:

1) to increase our Renewable Portfolio Standard to 50% renewable energy sources for electricity generation by 2030, 2) to reduce petroleum use by 50% by 2030, and 3) to increase building efficiency by 50% by 2030. The oil industry strongly opposed SB 350's petroleum requirement. In the end, that provision was removed from the bill. The amended bill has been signed by the Governor. Despite the dropped section, it is an important success.

SB 32, which would have strengthened the AB 32 greenhouse gas reduction targets, fell victim to attacks on the Air Resources Board's authority. The original SB 32 had the ambitious goal of reducing emissions to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, but was amended to the more modest – but still ambitious – goal of 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. AB 32, passed in 2006, had set the original goal to reach 1990 levels by 2020. At the end of the legislative session, SB 32 was in the Natural Resources Committee, so no vote was taken. The bill will be reconsidered in next year's session.

If you want to be part of the fight to get SB 32 passed, join the Climate Change Team. Your help is very welcome.

- Diz Swift, Action Coordinator

## LWVBAE Natural Resources: Environmental Concerns Speaker Series



Richard Strong

Join us Monday, November 9th when **Richard Strong** will speak to us about "**World Food and Soil Sustainability in a World of Climate Change.**" Strong has been a soil scientist for the U.S. Soil Conservation Service, director of commodities for the California Farm Bureau, and helped start the farmer's market movement in Northern California with the American Friends Service Committee.

Monday December 14 at 7 pm  
join us for our **Annual Holiday Potluck**. Bring appetizer or dessert finger foods to share as we enjoy a special screening of the acclaimed new film based on Naomi Klein's bestseller on climate change, ***This Changes Everything***.



The meetings take place 7:30-9:00 pm at 1174 Euclid Ave. (@ Chrystal Way, just north of Eunice) in north Berkeley. Join us for the second Monday of the month September through May. Contact Carol Stone at 510-549-0959 or seastone11@hotmail.com or Gail Schickele at 415-922-6627 or gail.schickele@gmail.com

## Study: MONEY in POLITICS 2015 - 2016

### Purpose of the Study

Is our democracy in danger of corruption by uncontrolled political spending? Do public apathy and cynicism about the undue influence of big money cause low voter turnout? How can we balance free speech rights with equal access rights? Is a Constitutional amendment the answer?

The Money in Politics Committee is studying the national League position on campaign finance to expand it to cover newly prominent sources of funding such as 501(c)4 non-profits and super PACs (political action committees). The study will consider whether political spending is protected speech under the First Amendment and if such spending should be protected at the expense of other goals in the League's current position: *to ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and to promote citizen participation in the political process.*

At the end of the study, the League should have a robust and relevant position to lobby against the corrupting influence of money in politics. Tools to be considered include contributions limits, spending limits, public financing, and exposure of all now dark or hidden contributions and contributors. A related and separate study aims to arrive at a position on the "whys and hows" of amending the Constitution.

### Who is doing the study?

Like all national studies, the Money in Politics study is carried out by local leagues and members. Our League is part of a joint study committee with the Oakland and Alameda Leagues. Several excellent informational panels were held in October. Meetings to discuss and reach agreement on our revised policies

- consensus meetings - will be held in January on Saturday, January 9 and Tuesday, January 19. Volunteers are still needed, contact [moneyinpolitics@lwvoakland.org](mailto:moneyinpolitics@lwvoakland.org).

### Role of the Study Committee

1. Inform ourselves using resources provided by LWVUS committee and other relevant resources.
2. Inform members and the public, through public programs with invited speakers and audience discussions. Committee volunteers will fill tasks such as publicity, question gathering and timekeeping.
3. Consensus meeting to arrive at local League agreement on questions provided by LWVUS.

LWVUS Study website:

<http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>

### Scheduled Meetings:

#### Hot Topics Roundtable Discussions

Wed., Oct 28 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
436 14<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland Conference Room 710



#### Amending the Constitution: How and Why

Wed., Nov 4 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm  
Oakland City Hall, Hearing Rm 3, One Frank Ogawa Plaza

#### League Members Consensus Meeting on Constitutional Amendment Process

Sat., Nov 7 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
436 14<sup>th</sup> St, Oakland Conference Room 710

Check the calendar at [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org) for more meetings and details.

## New Team Strategies to Register Voters



Upping their game in anticipation of the 2016 election year, Voter Services Team members have tested new strategies for registering more voters and getting more voters to turn out. New venues for registration tabling have included the biennial Berkeley High School All Class Reunion Picnic on August 22, the Adeline Corridor Pop-Up event on August 29 and the Ashby and Downtown Berkeley BART stations on National Voter Registration Day, September 22. Among other "firsts," we distributed postcard-size reminders of the 2016 primary and general election dates along with information about how to register on line - and offered mint-flavored taffy to new registrants. In the months ahead, look forward to roll-out of the Voter Registration App designed by Tech Professional and Voter Services Team member Daniel Roesler!

- Ruby MacDonald, Voter Services Team

### *Local Lobbying Con't from p.1*

to those with limited resources and would expand the national discussion of limiting big money in politics. (Note: Current Berkeley limit on campaign donations is \$250 per donor per candidate per election.) At a special November 10, 2015 meeting, the Council will discuss the proposal reviewed by the Fair Campaign Practices Commission. Watch our website for updated news of their action: [www.lwvbae.org](http://www.lwvbae.org).

**Citizens Redistricting Commission, Berkeley.** After a lengthy, contentious and expensive 2010 redistricting process, President Nancy Bickel and former Action Coordinator Carol Stone participated in the initial conversations to depoliticize the way Berkeley City Council districts are redrawn after each U.S. Census. At their September 29, 2015 regular meeting the Berkeley City Council approved the proposal, as reviewed and returned by the Open Government Commission. City staff will return to the Council with ballot language for the November 2016 General Election.

**Energy Utility Users Tax, Albany.** League Climate Action member Preston Jordan alerted the Action Team that Albany's Sustainability Committee will recommend to the Albany City Council a 2% tax on electricity and natural gas. Proceeds from the tax, essentially a "price on carbon," would establish a fund to assist homeowners with energy audits and energy efficiency projects. The LWVUS supports a price on carbon emissions as part of an overall program to improve energy efficiency and to replace fossil fuels with renewable energy fast enough to avoid serious damage to the climate system. The Albany City Council heard this proposal at their October 19 regular meeting.

**Ranked Choice Voting (RCV), Albany.** Demonstrations of RCV systems show that RCV for at-large, multi-seat contests increases the opportunity for fairer representation of varying viewpoints in the community. Diverse perspectives, represented consistently and fairly, increase governing stability by minimizing philosophical swings of the majority. LWV California and LWVBAE specifically support "instant run-off voting," or ranked choice voting (RCV), for single seat elections. LWVBAE Board decided to support Albany's investigation of the voting method for their at-large City

*Con't next column*



## Solving The Climate Crisis: Carbon Pricing 101 An educational forum on non-partisan, market-based approaches to curbing greenhouse gas emissions

**Monday, November 2, 2015 • 7 p.m.**  
**FREE and OPEN to the PUBLIC**  
**David Brower Center • Goldman Auditorium**  
**2150 Allston Way, downtown Berkeley**

Efforts to put a price on carbon pollution are underway at the state and national level. Join us for an educational forum on how carbon pricing can help solve the climate crisis. You'll learn about proposals such as a carbon tax, cap and trade and other pricing mechanisms that make polluters pay for their greenhouse gas emissions. Get informed and inspired about this practical, non-partisan solution to the climate crisis.

### **Panelists:**

**Dr. Linda Dismore (Diz) Swift – League of Women Voters**

creator of [priceoncarbon.org](http://priceoncarbon.org), Diz is a geologist with long experience in the energy business and climate

**Peter Barnes – Co-founder, Working Assets**

Peter is an innovative thinker and entrepreneur whose work has focused on fixing the climate crisis

**Derek Walker – Environmental Defense Fund**

**Associate V.P. Climate and Energy Program**

Derek is an accomplished participant at UN conferences

**Elyce Klein – Citizens Climate Lobby Outreach**

**Coordinator, Alameda County Chapter**

**Laurie Williams – Environmental Attorney and Citizens Climate Lobby**

**Moderated by Gail Schickele – League of Women Voters and Climate Reality Project**

This is a free, wheelchair-accessible event sponsored by **The League of Women Voters, Citizens Climate Lobby, Berkeley Climate Action Coalition, The Sierra Club, The Ecology Center, and The David Brower Center.**

For more information contact: Elyce Klein, [elyceklein@gmail.com](mailto:elyceklein@gmail.com), 510-526-2989, or Regina Beatus, [regina.a.beatus@gmail.com](mailto:regina.a.beatus@gmail.com)



### *Con't from previous column*

Council elections looking for better representation of all citizen points of view in elections. No date has been set for the Council's consideration.

The Action Team tracks local issues with an eye on those to be considered by voters in November 2016. The team meets first Monday of the month, 7 pm in the League office. (Note: the November meeting will be Thursday, October 29) We welcome folks who are passionate about a particular local issue or who want to enhance their civic engagement by observing an elected board or volunteer commission. Interested? Contact Jill Martinucci, [actionjill@lwvbae.org](mailto:actionjill@lwvbae.org).

- Jill Martinucci, Action Coordinator

## BOARD 2015-2016

President Nancy Bickel  
Secretary Christine Wenrich  
Treasurer Sarah Miyazaki  
Directors Lessly Wikle Field  
Phyllis Gale  
Deborah Malbec  
Jill Martinucci  
Diz Swift

## OFF-BOARD

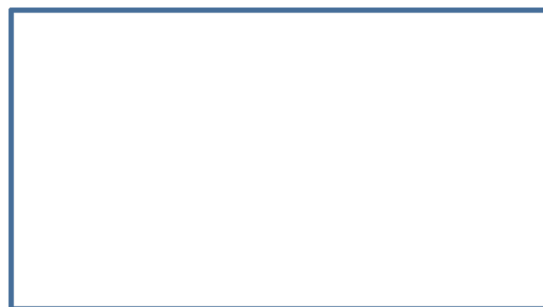
VOTER Editors Gail Schickele  
Jeanette Zerneke  
Climate Change Regina Beatus  
Education Study Carol F. Thomas  
Environ. Concerns Carol Stone  
Gail Schickele  
Health Care Li-hsia Wang



League of Women Voters of Berkeley  
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite F  
Berkeley, CA 94702-2000

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Berkeley, CA  
Permit No. 29



## 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.

### November

2 Mon	10:30-12:00p	<b>Voter Services Team</b>	P. Gale	548-0591
2 Mon	7:00-9:00p	<b>Solving the Climate Crisis</b>	D. Swift	548-4808
4 Wed	6:00-7:00p	<b>Amending the Constitution Forum *</b>		
7 Sat	9:00a-1:00p	<b>Consensus on Constitutional Amendment Study *</b>		
9 Mon	7:00-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
17 Tues	7:00-8:30p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904
19 Thurs	7:00-8:00a	<b>Higher Ed Panel on Access</b>	C. Thomas	928-8246
21 Sat	10:00a-12:00p	<b>Higher Ed Study Team</b>	C. Thomas	928-8246

### December

4 Fri		<b>Nov-Dec Voter deadline</b>	G. Schickele	415-922-6627
7 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	<b>Voter Services Team</b>	P. Gale	548-0591
7 Mon	7:00-9:00p	<b>Action Team</b>	J. Martinucci	847-4797
11 Fri	6:00-9:00p	<b>LWVBAE Open House</b>	N. Bickel	684-6302
14 Mon	7:00-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
15 Tues	12:15-2:15p	<b>League Program Planning</b>	N. Bickel	684-6302
15 Tues	7:00-8:30p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904

### January

4 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	<b>Voter Services Team</b>	P. Gale	548-0591
9 Sat	9:00-1:00p	<b>Money in Politics Consensus *</b>		
11 Mon	7:00-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
16 Sat	10:00a-12:00p	<b>Higher Ed Study Team</b>	C. Thomas	928-8246
19 Tues	12:15-2:15p	<b>Money in Politics Consensus *</b>		

\* Details on above meetings may be found at [moneyinpolitics@lwvoakland.org](mailto:moneyinpolitics@lwvoakland.org)  
See story page 5

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

Editors: Gail Schickele  
Jeanette Zerneke

Current and past issues  
of *The VOTER*  
are posted on our website  
[www.lwvbae.org/newsletter](http://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*