

## League Guidance Through a Monster Ballot

This 2016 General Election ballot, which includes scores of candidates, also has a plethora of ballot measures. There are seventeen California propositions, twelve Berkeley measures and ten Albany measures. Emeryville has no ballot measures. Recommendations on California State measures are on the League of Women Voters of California website at [lwvc.org](http://lwvc.org).

- Diz Swift, Action VP  
*See pp 5-6*

## Let Your Voice Be Heard Preparing to Vote UP and DOWN the Ballot

Voters face a complicated ballot this November Election. We are encouraging voters to not only vote the top of the ballot, but also down the ballot so local offices are filled and Ballot Measures decided.

The LWV Berkeley Albany Emeryville has adopted a 1-2-3 approach - voter registration, provide educational information and events, and - most important of all - VOTE!

1. **Voter Registration:** With your help we will continue to register voters to the deadline on October 24th. We have events organized such as National Voter Registration Day and Solano Stroll. We are also registering parents at Berkeley School District events. Events may be found on the LWVBAE website.

2. **Be Informed:** There are many decisions to be made. LWVBAE is providing resources to assist voters in making those decisions.

*Con't p.3*

## LWVBAE On The Move

Much of our focus is on the November election in which voters will find numerous ballot measures in Berkeley and Albany (none for Emeryville), as well as Berkeley candidates for mayor, city council, rent control board and school board. (*For details see Action VP Diz Swift's summary, Monster Ballot, pp 5-6.*) Much energy has been going to interviewing supporters and opponents for the local ballot measures to determine our support status. We held a League members-only meeting on July 20 to review the measures. Reaching no conclusive decision on some measures, the Board directly discussed those measures with proponents and opponents at our August Board Meeting.

We are planning several candidate forums and ballot proposition pro-and-con sessions delivered to community groups. A mayoral forum being co-sponsored by Berkeley City College will be held in their auditorium and attendance may be required for some political science students.

In September we will be delivering an information session at a Chamber of Commerce event. We are also reaching out to local PTA groups and Toastmaster groups.

*Con't p.2*

## CALL to the FALL MEETING

**Wednesday September 15 from 7:00 - 8:30 PM**

**Northbrae Community Church 941 The Alameda, Berkeley**

### "What Voting Means to Me"

Hear from members of several local communities that are generally underrepresented in the voting arena.

Participants include:

- Andrew Goodman Foundation
- The NAACP
- Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA)
- Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), which serves low income and homeless people.

Learn how each describes perceptions of voting in each community, how we can encourage voting, and questions from the audience. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. A brief business meeting will end the evening.

*- See story p.2*

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## Welcome New Members

|                    |                   |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Jesse Arreguiun    | Paul Knobel       |
| Brandi Campbell    | Gabi Kramer       |
| David Fielder      | Kalen Meyer       |
| Lisa Gorman        | Jay Nitschke      |
| Jacqueline Hammond | Jeanette Sozanski |
| Ali Kamran         | Cheryl Sudduth    |
| Christine Knobel   | Trent Sudduth     |

**In Memorium:**  
Polly Amrein

- Mina Jenner, Membership

## Many Thanks to Our Donors

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| Murlene Grant       | Karen Nelson     |
| Ann-Marie Hogan     | Susan Pownall    |
| Candace Hyde-Wang   | Ursula Rolfe     |
| Yvonne Koshland     | Susan Schwartz   |

Suzanne Chun, Pat Day, Angharad Jones and Sherry Smith  
made donations in memory of Mel Lavine  
Pat Day made a donation in honor of Rainey Sykes

- Elizabeth Russell, Donations Secretary

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

## On The Move from p.1

Our newly formed Civics Education Team has developed a brochure on how and why to vote that will be distributed to Berkeley High School seniors during their August school registration. The Berkeley Chamber of Commerce has volunteered to provide additional helpers at the event.

After August, the brochure will be further developed to be shared with other high schools and adult school students.

The Fall Meeting program will feature a panel of members of underserved communities to discuss why their communities vote in lower numbers and what actions we might take to encourage more direct participation.

Communities may include lower income/homeless, people of color, under age 25, and Hispanic/Latino.

We have had four successful social gatherings for new and prospective members.

There are many opportunities for you to participate in the League. Please see the current list on our web page under "Get Involved"/ "The League Needs You."

- Deborah Malbec, President

# Come to Our Fall Meeting

**Wednesday September 15, 2016 at 7:00 pm** will be the League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville Fall Meeting. The program, "What Voting Means to Me," is a discussion with members of several local communities that are generally under-represented in the voting arena. At the time of this writing details are still being arranged, but participants will include Sarah Funes, Cal student and Andrew Goodman Foundation ambassador; an NAACP representative; Rev. Kit Novotny, the Young Adult Minister at First Congregational Church of Berkeley United Church of Christ, part of Berkeley Organizing Congregations for Action (BOCA); and a representative from Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS), which serves very low income and homeless people.

## The panel will open with discussion :

How do I feel about voting?

What does voting mean to me?

Why I am an avid voter or rarely if ever vote?

What could the League of Women Voters do to help/encourage me and others like me to vote?

Questions from the attendees also will be addressed.

The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served after the presentation. A brief business meeting will end the evening.

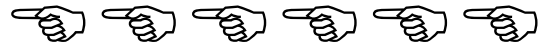
**Location: Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley 7:00 - 8:30 pm.**

**No paper?  
No printer?  
No stamp?  
No mailbox?  
No problem!**

**REGISTER TO VOTE ONLINE**  
**RegisterToVote.ca.gov**

**LWV** **VOTE CALIFORNIA**   
www.sos.ca.gov

**Say YES to VOTING!**



The flyer to the left  
will be distributed to potential voters.  
Please stop by the office to grab a few flyers  
to distribute to your friends and family  
who are not yet registered.

SmartVoter's replacement  
"VotersEdge" ([votersedge.org/ca](http://votersedge.org/ca))  
is updated constantly  
with November 8th Election  
information. Come back often  
to learn more.



*What's on Your Ballot*

LWVBAE is organizing a series of **Candidate Forums**  
over the next few weeks. The forums for the Berkeley,  
Albany, Emeryville, and regional offices/candidates will be  
finalized and can be found on [LWVBAE.org](http://LWVBAE.org). The forums  
will be taped and be uploaded to **VotersEdge** along with  
the LWVBAE's YouTube channel.

**Local Ballot Measures Pros and Cons along with Busy  
Voter** will be published by mid September. Be sure to go  
to the Fall meeting to pick up copies. We will also continue  
to our **Ballot Issues Speakers Service** to provide local  
organizations information on the ballot issues.

### 3. **VOTE!**      **Vote on November 8th**

**Early voting starts October 10th at the Courthouse.**  
October 10th is also the first day of mailing Vote By Mail  
Ballots to voters. The mail ballot can be dropped off at the  
box at Berkeley City Hall or at the Oakland Courthouse.

- Phyllis Gale, Voter/Services Coordinator



## The National League Welcomes Young Voters

At the 2016 National Convention the definition of  
Voting members was changed. At our Fall Meeting,  
LWVBAE will convene to pass this change to our  
bylaws to maintain appropriately parallel bylaws with  
national LWV.

The new language will read:

### Article III Membership

#### Section 2. Type of Membership

- a. Voting Members. Persons who are at least 16  
years of age shall be Voting Members of  
LWVBAE, LWVBA, LWVC, and LWVUS.

- Phyllis Gale, Voter/Election Services Coordinator





**You joined the League** of Women Voters because you care about your community and you care about democracy. Here are some ways you can help the League do its work. Whether you are ready to volunteer or would like to discuss the possibilities, please feel free to email

[president@lwvbae.org](mailto:president@lwvbae.org) or phone Deborah Malbec at (510) 225-9598.

## OPEN BOARD POSITIONS

### Program Director

The program Director is a Board position with primary responsibility for arranging the public events for studies, educational events and talks, Annual and Fall Meetings, and annual Program Planning. S/he coordinates with the appropriate Action, Voter Services and-or committee chair who have a major role on determining the content of each presentation with the Press person to publicize the events.

### Communications Coordinator

There is a busy and active team of accomplished members who write and manage the web page, develop and edit the bi-monthly VOTER, handle publicity and press releases, produce the weekly eBlast and manage the calendar and Meetup postings. But none of these people regularly attend Board meetings.

The Communications Coordinator, who is a Board member, keeps these volunteers informed of events to be posted, identifies priorities and helps them coordinate their activities. Both the League's current and past president held this position prior to their presidency.

## COMMITTEES TO JOIN

**Membership Committee:** Chaired by Jinky Gardner  
[membership@lwvbae.org](mailto:membership@lwvbae.org)

**Hospitality Committee:** Chaired by Program Director

**Affordable Housing:** New Committee needs new Chair

**Office Administration:** Chaired by Regina Beatus  
[office@lwvbae.org](mailto:office@lwvbae.org)

*Con't next column*

See also our existing committees that will always accept new members:

**Action**

**Program**

**Voter Services**

**Climate Change**

**Civics Education**

**Environmental Concerns Speaker Series**

**Communications**

**Finance and Budget**

**Events**

**Office Management**

## INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED

**Community Liaison:** Keep in contact with religious and other civic groups such as NAACP and BOCA. This job may be divided up for more than one person.

**Outreach:** Organize and arrange LWVBAE tabling efforts at street fairs and other public events such as Solano Stroll, Berkeley Streets, and Juneteenth.

**Government Watchdogs:** Attend committee and board meetings wearing your League button. Write a brief report (under 100 words) and submit it to [webmaster@lwvbae.org](mailto:webmaster@lwvbae.org)

**Town/Gown Coordinator:** Establish and develop relationships with the University Community.

**Community Choice Energy Monitor:** Community Choice Energy (CCE) allows public agencies to purchase electricity on behalf of customers as an alternative to investor-owned utilities such as PG&E. The goal of CCE - also called community choice aggregation (CAA) - is to provide cleaner, greener, and more local electricity to customers. Alameda County and the City of Berkeley are studying the possibilities of doing this. LWVBAE needs a member to participate in the study and keep our membership informed.

**eBlast Editor:** Produce the weekly eBlast of League and local activities using MailChimp software and the League Calendar. (Software is web-based) Takes about 2 - 3 hours/week done on your own using your personal computer.

**VOTER Editor** - Gather submissions organized by the Communications Coordinator, some writing is involved, and edit, design and oversee publication of this LWVC-award-winning bi-monthly newsletter.



# League Guidance Through A Monster Ballot



## Berkeley Measures

**MEASURE E1 BSEP Parcel Tax – YES** The Berkeley Schools Excellence Program (BSEP) parcel tax has augmented state funding for Berkeley schools since 1986, and is up for renewal. The BSEP tax revenues currently provide 20% of the funding for the Berkeley Public Schools, including funds for a third of the teachers to keep class sizes small, 100% of all school libraries, music programs, support for struggling students, educational technology and professional development, middle school counselors, family engagement, and public information and translation. A 2/3 vote is required to pass.

**MEASURE W1 Citizens' Redistricting Commission – YES** This amendment to the City Charter removes the City Council redistricting process from the political arena by forming an independent Citizens' Redistricting Commission to redraw the City's eight district lines as required following each ten-year census. The proposed commission and process is patterned after the California state system championed by the state League (LWVC.) The process is designed to be open and transparent and to allow for public comment in the drawing of district boundaries.

**MEASURE T1 Infrastructure and Facilities Bond – YES** It is time we tackled our failing infrastructure. This \$100 million bond measure would be spent on needed capital improvements and major maintenance for Berkeley's parks, facilities, streets and watershed. Waiting will only increase costs; and bond rates are at historic lows. The bond monies would be spent on highest priority needs ranging from seismic improvements, parks, street paving, storm water and watershed. The process, involving extensive public outreach, would be overseen by the Public Works Commission and Parks and Waterfront Commission. A 2/3 vote is required to pass.

**MEASURE Y1 Youth Voting – YES** Research shows that bringing 16- and 17-year-olds into local voting, such as for Berkeley School Board Directors, helps to establish a life-long habit of voting and strengthen civic identity, while participation of their parents may increase 3 to 5 percent.

**Rental Unit Business License Tax** Affordable housing is scarce in Berkeley - how do we pay for it? Two competing measures on the ballot increase the business license tax on rental unit owners to help pay for affordable housing.

**MEASURE U1 City Sponsored Measure – YES** This measure would increase the business license tax on owners of five or more residential rental units from 1.08% to 2.88% on gross receipts, prohibiting pass-through to tenants and providing various exemptions. The increase is estimated to raise about \$4 to 4.5 million in annual revenues to the general fund, with direction to the Housing Advisory Commission to recommend affordable housing projects. Proceeds are estimated to facilitate about 35 to 45 affordable housing units per year. New construction is exempted to encourage building more rental units.

**MEASURE DD Citizens' Initiative – NO** This measure was put on the ballot by the Berkeley Rental Housing Association, a landlords' group, as alternative to the city sponsored measure. It proposes a business license tax of 1.5 percent on owners of three or more units (smaller landlords). Unlike the city-sponsored measure, this measure does not exempt new construction, and the lower rate provides about one third the revenue of the city sponsored measure, and thus will facilitate fewer affordable housing units per year.

**Minimum Wage** Again there are two competing measures on the ballot.

**MEASURE BB City Sponsored Measure – YES** This measure, the result of nearly three years of discussion and compromise, increases minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2019, a pace that allows small businesses time to adjust. It includes mandated paid sick leave (six days for all businesses), and requires service charges be distributed to those providing the service, but with no reporting requirement. It exempts youth-in-job training programs for up to one year, giving young people a chance to build experience.

*Con't p. 6*

**MEASURE CC Citizens' Initiative – NEUTRAL** This initiative to bring Berkeley up to a living wage does not take into account all factors. It increases minimum wage to \$15 by 2017 with additional increases beyond that. It requires mandated paid sick leave (six days for small business employees, nine days for others), does not have exemptions for youth-in-job training programs, and requires service charges be distributed to those providing the service, with reporting requirements. The League is neutral because the effect on Berkeley's small businesses, although not fully known, could be severe.

**MEASURE X1 Public Campaign Financing – NEUTRAL** While not critical for Berkeley, this is a "good government" proposal. With this measure, if a candidate chooses to limit all contributions to \$50 or less, those contributions would be matched at 6:1 by the City, thus potentially providing funds to broaden the diversity of candidates – which is good. However, this measure is not critical because Berkeley already limits individual contributions to candidates to \$250, and prohibits donations from businesses – restrictions that are strong to limit money in politics. The League is neutral also because general fund costs, estimated at \$1-2 million per election cycle, are not currently provided for in the City's budget.

**MEASURE AA Rent Board Ordinance – NEUTRAL** This ordinance would amend the Rent Stabilization Ordinance for tenant eviction caused by owner move-in to one of her/his units. It is designed to aid tenants but burdens owners. It would increase the fee owners must pay tenants from the current \$4500 provided to low-income tenants to \$15,000-\$20,000 for any tenant, regardless of income level. The ordinance would further prohibit owner move-in evictions of families with children during the academic year, and adds some needed clarifications.

#### **"Housekeeping" Measures**

**MEASURE Z1 Low Income Housing Authorization – YES** Authorizes local public entities to develop, construct or acquire additional units of low-rent housing for persons of low income to meet the requirement of the California Constitution. This measure does not approve specific housing projects or commit City funds to any housing project.

**MEASURE V1 Gann Appropriation Limit – YES** Raises the Gann Limit for City of Berkeley spending, so Berkeley can spend tax money already approved by voters, and any new revenue approved this year. The State Constitution requires, every four years, voter authorization to raise the spending limit, called the "Gann Limit."

## **Albany Measures**

**MEASURE P1 Property Tax for Sidewalks – YES** This measure provides revenue to repair Albany's sidewalks so they are safe. While sidewalks are public infrastructure, adjacent private property owners are responsible for maintenance, resulting in irregular maintenance and safety hazards. This measure would give the maintenance responsibility to the City, paid for by an annual tax of about \$15 per apartment or condominium and \$38 per house, with exemptions for low-income homeowners and a rebate for low-income home renters.

**MEASURE N1 Measure D Reform – YES** Measure D, passed in 1978, requires two off-street parking spaces for every new residence, whether the residence is a studio or 3,000 square foot house. This requirement is increasingly out of step with decreasing car ownership rates, and unnecessarily limits flexibility for different types of housing. Passage of the measure would allow the City Council to alter parking requirements following the usual public process for changing the Zoning Code, as is the case in most cities.

**MEASURE O1 Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverages – YES** Scientific consensus agrees that current rates of sugar-sweetened beverage consumption are at least partially responsible for incidence of various health conditions, such as diabetes. Passage of this measure would add a tax on sugar-sweetened beverages in the same manner as Berkeley's "soda tax," with the exception that in lieu of a panel to advise the Council how to spend the revenue to improve public health, three existing Albany Commissions will provide this advice.

The League has no recommendation on School Board Term Limits, Civil Service Board, Police and Fire Fighter Pension Board, City Manager Title, Public Records Fee, Council Member Appointment, or the Gender Neutral Amendment.

## Update on Civics Education



**Ruby MacDonald**

The recently regrouped Civics Education Team is off to a good start in boosting Civics Education in the Berkeley community, especially public schools. Team members Jinky Gardner, Beverly Kent, Helene Lecar, Bobbie Spike, Janice Tolman and Christine Wenrich, led by Ruby

MacDonald, have produced a brochure to help the first-time high school voter shoulder this crucial responsibility of citizenship! The how-to brochure takes the reader from registering to vote, contents of a ballot, sources of information on candidates and issues and evaluating such information to the critical step of new voters reminding themselves to VOTE. Download this latest effort of the Civics Education Team on our new website under "About" -- "Teams" -- "Issues" -- "Civics Education."

Events of the ongoing election season are making clear to all how necessary the work of "civics educators" is to our communities and, indeed, our country. We welcome you to join us!

- Ruby MacDonald



Good News! It's time to order your *Easy Voter Guides* for the November 8 election! <http://bit.ly/EVGNov2016>

The 16-page Easy Voter Guide offers unbiased, easy-to-read ballot measure and election information for the November 8 Presidential Election for new and busy voters. All 17 statewide ballot measures will be covered! Guides are available to order now to distribute in your community before the election. PLEASE NOTE: If you are a local League of Women Voters OR a public library please contact us for free copies via email at [lwvc@lwvc.org](mailto:lwvc@lwvc.org).

Shipping begins the first week of October.

View the June EVG and other helpful resources:

[www.easyvoterguide.org](http://www.easyvoterguide.org)

## Join Us LWVBAE Natural Resources: Climate Change Team & Environmental Concerns Speaker Series

The League of Women Voters Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville's Natural Resources committees are at the forefront of education and action for the environment.

Our Climate Change Team, initially chaired by founders Diz Swift and Janice Blumenkrantz, continues under longtime chair Regina Beatus and welcomes new members for monthly meetings at our LWV Berkeley offices. The Team's focus to put a **Price on Carbon** has enjoyed successful caucuses at state and national conventions and is supported by the LWVUS-sanctioned website created by Diz Swift, [www.priceoncarbon.org](http://www.priceoncarbon.org). Other action includes following climate and related environmental legislation, letter writing campaigns, and following related governmental agencies such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, which, along with other regional agencies, is also closely watched by the Bay Area League's *Bay Area Monitor*.

Our Environmental Concerns Speaker Series has met second Mondays monthly September through May for more than 30 years as a fireside chat with outstanding speakers presenting to members and general public in member homes. In May the LWVBAE Board voted that all meetings will be ADA- (American Disabilities Act) accessible, a feature we welcome to increase accessibility and interest in the series.

Two locations under consideration are:

1. The Parlor room at the Northbrae Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, CA 94707
2. The Monkey House at 1638 University Ave, Berkeley, CA 94703.

Come to our next meeting at our current fireside chat location Monday, September 12 and give us your input for a new location for the Speaker Series!

Our next meeting will take place 7:30-9:00 pm at 1174 Euclid Ave. (@ Crystal Way, just north of Eunice) in North Berkeley, the home of Jeanette Zerneke and Mark Nyman.

Join us the second Monday of the month September through May. Contact Carol Stone at 510-549-0959 or [seastone01@comcast.net](mailto:seastone01@comcast.net) or Gail Schickele at 415-922-6627 or [gail.schickele@gmail.com](mailto:gail.schickele@gmail.com)

As always in League, your voice counts!

## BOARD 2016 - 2017

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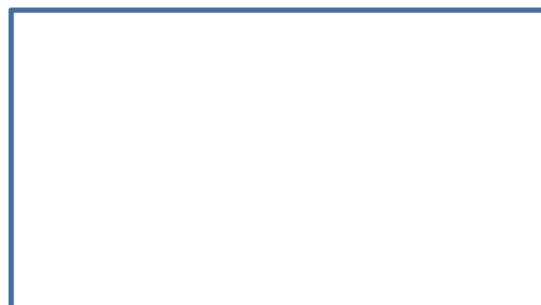
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Environmental Concerns  
Speaker Series Carol Stone  
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## Calendar

Locations-details may change, see the online calendar [www.lwvbae.org/calendar](http://www.lwvbae.org/calendar)

### September

|         |               |                           |              |              |
|---------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 8 Thu   | 7:00-9:00p    | Action Team Meeting       | D. Swift     | 548-4808     |
| 12 Mon  | 10:30a-12:00p | Voter Services Team       | P. Gale      | 508-4389     |
| 12 Mon  | 7:30-9:00p    | Environmental Concerns    | C. Stone     | 549-0959     |
| 15 Thu  | 7:00-9:00p    | LWVBAE Fall Meeting       | D. Malbec    | 883-4657     |
| 20 Tues | 7:30-9:00p    | Climate Change Team       | R. Beatus    | 524-6904     |
| 21 Wed  | 4:00-5:30p    | Civics Education Team     | R. MacDonald | 524-8961     |
| 26 Mon  | 10:30a-12:00p | Voter Services Team       | P. Gale      | 508-4389     |
| 26 Mon  | 6:00-7:30p    | First Presidential Debate |              |              |
| 26 Mon  | 7:00-9:00p    | LWVBAE Board Meeting      | D. Malbec    | 883-4657     |
| 28 Wed  | 7:00-9:00p    | LWV Member Social         | A. Ishii     | 818-620-5821 |

YWCA Berkeley, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley

Area code is (510) unless noted

### October

|         |               |                            |              |              |
|---------|---------------|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 Mon   |               | Nov-Dec. VOTER Deadline    | G Schickele  | 415-922-6627 |
| 4 Tues  | 6:00-7:30p    | Vice Presidential Debate   |              |              |
| 9 Sun   | 6:00-7:30p    | Second Presidential Debate |              |              |
| 10 Mon  | 10:30a-12:00p | Voter Services Team        | P. Gale      | 508-4389     |
| 10 Mon  | 7:30-9:00p    | Environmental Concerns     | C. Stone     | 549-0959     |
| 13 Thu  | 7:00-9:00p    | Action Team Meeting        | D. Swift     | 548-4808     |
| 18 Tues | 7:30-9:00p    | Climate Change Team        | R. Beatus    | 524-6904     |
| 19 Wed  | 4:00-5:30p    | Civics Education Team      | R. MacDonald | 524-8961     |
| 19 Wed  | 6:00-7:30p    | Third Presidential Debate  |              |              |
| 24 Mon  | 7:00-9:00p    | LWVBAE Board Meeting       | D. Malbec    | 883-4657     |

### November

|        |             |                       |       |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------|-------|
| 8 Tues | 7:00a-8:00p | National Election Day | VOTE! |
|--------|-------------|-----------------------|-------|

*The VOTER* is published six times a year by the League of Women Voters of Berkeley  
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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*