



The Voter

“...to promote informed citizen participation in government.”

Call to Annual Meeting

When: Thursday, June 6, 5:15 to 8:30 pm

Where: Northbrae Community Church,
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

Speaker: Dr. Lisa Garcia Bedolla, Associate
Professor of Political Science, UC Berkeley

Civic Engagement and Voting in Our Latina/o and other Ethnic and Racial Communities

Join us at the Annual Meeting to hear Dr. Lisa Garcia Bedolla report on her research on civic



engagement and community activity and political involvement in Latina/o and other racial and ethnic groups in California and the country. Her most recent book (with Melissa Michelson) *Mobilizing Inclusion: Transforming the Electorate through Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns* (New Haven: Yale U. Press, 2012) is highly relevant for our League, as the 2010 census shows that number and proportion of Hispanic/Latino and Asian residents has been growing in Berkeley. Her talk will begin at 6:30. Her award-winning work includes: *Latino Politics* and *Fluid Borders: Latino Power, Identity, and Politics in Los Angeles*.

Before Dr. Garcia Bedolla's presentation, please join us for dinner at 5:30. If you have come to recent membership meetings, you've been treated to a gourmet meal prepared by our expert chef, Rainey Sykes, with the help of her well-trained crew of fellow members.

To help Rainey know how much food to prepare, **please make your supper reservations** by phoning the office (843-8824) or emailing us ([office @lwvbae.org](mailto:office@lwvbae.org)) before May 31. Or you can go to our website at www.lwvbae.org/annual-meeting to reserve and pay with your credit card via PayPal. Dinner is \$15 per person; you may also pay with check or cash at the door. If you'd like to help with dinner setup and/or cleanup—or wish a ride to and from the meeting – please call or email the office. We will respond promptly to your message.

At 7:30, we'll conduct our annual business meeting. In this issue of the *VOTER* you'll find the Annual Meeting Kit, which contains the full details of the matters being brought to the membership

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for decision: the Proposed Budget 2013-2014; the Board recommendations for the Local Program for 2013-2014; a Summary of Local Support Positions; and the Recommendation of the Nominating Committee for Board Positions for 2013-2014.

This year's meeting will be an important one for our League, because we will be asking the membership to approve changing our League's tax status from an IRS Section 501(c)(4) non-profit entity to a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, which would make memberships and contributions tax-deductible.

Please read the Annual Meeting Kit materials, printed on yellow paper in the center of this VOTER issue for a full explanation of the implications of changing from one type of tax-recognized organization to another. There are three California Local Leagues that have already qualified. Over 30 more, including LWVBAE, have joined in a request to be considered by the IRS as a group for the application process. The LWV Wisconsin and all of its 17 local Wisconsin Leagues have been operating as 501(c)(3) entities for the last two years.

Remember to bring the pull-out yellow pages to the Annual Meeting on June 6.

Sherry Smith, President

LWV Bay Area Council

Want to know what other Bay Area Leagues are doing? Attend the Bay Area League Council where the 21 local Leagues from the Bay Area will each talk about their key activities.

Alicia Aguirre, Mayor of Redwood City and member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission will speak on the **Plan Bay Area**.

Saturday, May 4, 2013

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Woodside Independence Hall

2955 Woodside Road, Woodside, CA 94062

Contact Sherry Smith at president@LWVBAE.org if you wish to attend.

Measure M Planning

Berkeley's Measure M – a \$30 million bond measure – passed with over 73% approval in November 2012. The measure was designed to accelerate the rate at which we repave our streets while providing resources, when appropriate, to address the storm water issues as they relate to the street/curb/drain infrastructure. These watershed improvements could include permeable pavements, bioswales, and local rain gardens, which provide opportunities for water to percolate into the ground instead of running down gutters and storm drains and flooding West Berkeley.

The League actively supported Measure M in the 2012 campaign, co-writing and signing the ballot arguments for the measure and the corresponding rebuttal to opponents. Bond monies will become available in January 2014, but before that we need a plan. Berkeley's Public Works Commission is charged with developing the plan. They are working jointly with the Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC) and the Transportation Commission and with the League of Women Voters – Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville to develop the plan by this autumn for City Council approval before the end of 2013. Following the League's long-standing support of transparency in government, LWVBAE's role is to help assure that there is significant community involvement and that a broad range of stakeholders is included appropriately in the process.

The current plan is to have a series of community meetings – perhaps three – in the spring and summer to educate the community on the restrictions and opportunities provided by Measure M and to get community input and priorities for the plan. We will need League members to participate in the meetings and will be seeking your help as the dates become firm.

Please contact Carol Stone program@lwvbae.org or Sherry Smith president@lwvbae.org if you wish to participate in the meetings.

Money in Politics

Follow the \$11-Million Money Trail

Shortly before Election Day last November, an out-of-state nonprofit organization made an \$11 million contribution to a California ballot measure committee that clearly violated California law.



This is what happened...

- A 501(c)(6) non-profit trade association called Americans for Job Security, based in Alexandria, Virginia, gave a contribution to the 501(c)(4) social welfare non-profit, the Center to Protect Patient Rights, based in Phoenix, Arizona.
- The Center to Protect Patient Rights then gave a contribution to Americans for Responsible Leadership (ARL) also out of Phoenix, Arizona.
- ARL then gave \$11 million to California-based Small Business Action Committee Political Action Committee (SBAC-PAC).
- SBAC-PAC funneled this money into two California Ballot Measures during the 2012 General Election – “No” on Proposition 30, the initiative to raise sales and income taxes on the wealthy and “Yes” on Proposition 32, which would stop labor unions from using payroll deductions to collect PAC funds from their members.

The effort was not successful. Prop 30 passed and Prop 32 was defeated.

This \$11-million “money bomb” occurred very close to Election Day and since non-profits are not required to disclose their donors, voters did not have the information on who was responsible for

providing funding to the propositions. Only after the Fair Political Practices Commission (FPPC) and California Attorney General Kamala Harris investigated a complaint, was the SBAC-PAC forced to disclose the contributor. But it happened on just the day before the election.

Since 2010, when the United States Supreme Court decided in favor of the plaintiffs in Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission, non-profit organizations have been set up to collect unlimited contributions from corporations and unions because they are not required to disclose who their donors are. These funds are then used to fund candidates and ballot measures. And it’s happening at the local, state, and national levels.

What We’re Doing

The League of Women Voters of California is leading California’s campaign for contribution disclosure laws. The League is supporting a “package” of bills, including SB 2 (Lieu) and SB 3 (Yee), the Sunshine in Campaigns Act. These bills address three broad areas:

End the “dark money” loophole: Prevent the use of nonprofits and Super PACs to hide the real sources of campaign funds.

Enforce the rules: Strictly enforce all campaign regulations with adequate penalties.

Improve filings and disclosure: Make it easy for campaigns to make their reports—with online filing and schedules more like federal reporting schedules.

Barb Singleton, Action Team member

Want to get involved?

Come to the next Action Meeting!

Tuesday, May 28, 4:30-5:30, LWVBAE office

Sixteen Members Heading to State Convention

June 16-19 in San Jose

At least sixteen of our members plan to attend convention — as delegates, workshop presenters, caucus organizers and engaged observers. Why so many? Our dynamic action teams and members want to connect with League colleagues, gather support for causes and learn how to reach the public and members more effectively. At conventions, we get advanced training in issues and techniques that make us more effective within and beyond our League work.

Putting a Price on Carbon Emissions: Regina Beatus, Janice Blumenkrantz, Gail Schickele, Carol Stone, Diz Swift and others of the Climate Change Team are organizing a caucus to discuss the two most probable ways to put an effective price on carbon emissions — whether by “cap-and-trade” or a direct tax.

Healthcare Reform for California and the Affordable Care Act (ACA): Li-hsia Wang—and others—will present this workshop and a caucus. They will discuss ways to help local Leagues to educate the public and to advocate for single-payer “Improved Medicare for All.”

LWVBAE has six official delegates. The responsibility for representing and voting for LWVBAE in plenary sessions will be shared among members Nancy Bickel, Janice Blumenkrantz, Phyllis Gale, Angharad Jones, Pat Kuhi, Sherry Smith, Carol Stone, and Diz Swift. Others attending include: Helene Lecar, working on education funding, Abigail Bok, our SmartVoter Coordinator, Linda Carothers, incoming webmaster, and Alexandra Ellman, who is working on our Facebook pages.

Everyone is welcome to attend one or more days — at your own expense. You can register by going to <http://lwvc.wordpress.com/>; look under “Pages” on right. One day registration, without lunch, is \$75.

Nancy Bickel, Communications Coordinator

Berkeley Redistricting

Measure R (Redistricting) which passed by 66% in the November, 2012 election, removed the explicit description of district boundaries from the City Charter. The principal new provisions for drawing district boundaries are: districts must have roughly equal populations, boundaries must follow logical divisions (such as major streets), and current Councilmembers’ residences must remain in their current district. Sherry Smith, representing LWVBAE, moderated the first community meeting on January 24, where City Staff described the redistricting process and answered questions. Upcoming key dates (all in 2013) are as follows:

- Apr 25 All redistricting proposals made available to public
- Apr 29 6:00p Community meeting — submitters present proposals, North Berkeley Senior Center
- May 7 First Public Hearing by Council
- July 2 Second Public Hearing by Council
- Sep 10 Final proposal in form of ordinance
Council adopts first reading of new district boundaries
- Sep 17 Council adopts second reading.
- Oct 13 Effective date of Redistricting Ordinance
- Dec 31 Statutory deadline for Council to adjust boundaries by ordinance

Donations to Our League

March 2013

To the LWVBAE General Fund

Joan Grossman
Joyce Jackson

To the LWVB Foundation

David Bradford
Charlotte Lichterman
Alba Witkin

Many thanks for remembering our League.

Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary

Remembering Evelyn Light

In March we lost our 31-year member Evelyn Light, 94. Like her many League friends, *VOTER* editors Alice Kisch and Bill Chapman remember her warmly as a friend and a meticulous proofreader. Bill wrote that, in the '90s, after her editing partner Marj Rubinow died, Evelyn wanted to retire, but Bill convinced her that the *VOTER* needed her. Bill, and later Alice, brought the final draft of each issue to Evelyn at home. When Bill or Alice picked up the corrected draft, they would discuss the changes and much else. Bill wrote: "It was always my goal to present Evelyn with an issue in which she would find nothing that needed correction. I never succeeded. She had an exceptionally keen eye for detail and a research process that constantly astounded me. She did not own a computer and had no access to the internet, but boy could she use a phone book, newspapers, old issues of previous *VOTERS*... and who knows what else." Alice wrote: "She reminded me of my mother: somewhat pedantic, somewhat shy, and almost always with a twinkle in her eye... Evelyn was a kind, tactful, respectful and endearing human being whom I will miss very much."

Membership Report

In March we welcomed six new members and one passed on (see above).

New Members

Mary Ann Barnett
Alexandra Ellman
Malina Packard
Stephen Packard
Susan Reneau
Barb Singleton

Death

Evelyn Light

Please join us in welcoming our new members.

Mina Jenner, Dues Coordinator

Nominating Committee Recommendations

The League Board 2013-14

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

Nominating Committee for 2013-14 – three members to be elected or appointed

Would you like to take on a League job? Serve on the Nominating Committee, as Communications Coordinator or as a member of the Communications Team. We are seeking content and layout editors for the *VOTER*, website, email and social media including Facebook. The Board has already identified candidates for webmaster, and SmartVoter Coordinator, among others.

SAVE THE DATE!

August 15

Annual Community Luncheon

Hs Lordships Restaurant, Berkeley Marina
11:30a – 1:30p

with distinguished speaker

Jeanne Woodford

Jeanne is the former Warden at San Quentin Prison, and now is Executive Director of Death Penalty Focus, working for alternatives to the death penalty.

More information will be provided in the Summer issue of the *VOTER*.

Board

2012-2013

President	Sherry Smith
Secretary	Angharad Jones
Treasurer(s)	Sarah Miyazaki/ Jan Blumenkrantz
Action	Diz Swift
Communications	Nancy Bickel
Program	Carol Stone
Membership	Dean Metzger



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Editorial Board: Jane Brandes, Sherry Smith
Current and past issues of the *VOTER* are posted on our website www.lwvbae.org

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.

Calendar

– Locations are the LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite F, Berkeley, unless otherwise noted

May

7	Tues	1:00-3:00p	LWVBAE Board Meeting	S. Smith	548-1769
10	Fri	1:30-3:30p	Civics Ed Team	J. Gardner	548-5292
13	Mon	4:00-5:30p	Using New Media	N. Bickel	684-6302
13	Mon	7:00-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
			1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
14	Tues	12:00-2:00p	Conversation	C. Stone	549-0959
			Edith Stone Rm, Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
17-19	Fri-Sun		LWVC Convention	S. Smith	548-1769
			San Jose		
20	Mon	1:30-2:30p	Health Care	L. Wang	848-5765
28	Tues	1:30-3:30p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904
28	Tues	4:30-5:30p	Action Meeting	D. Swift	548-4808

June

1	Sat	9:00a-5:00p	Chocolate & Chalk Festival	N. Bickel	684-6302
			Shattuck near Cedar		
4	Tues	1:00-3:00p	LWVBAE Board Meeting	S. Smith	548-1769
6	Thurs	5:30-8:30p	LWVBAE Annual Meeting	S. Smith	548-1769
			Northbrae Community Center, 941 The Alameda		
10	Mon	7:00-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
			1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
11	Tues	12:00-2:00p	Conversation	C. Stone	549-0959
			Edith Stone Rm, Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
13	Thurs	10:00-11:30a	LWVB Foundation Bd Mtg	S. Smith	548-1769
14	Fri	1:30-3:30p	Civics Ed Team	J. Gardner	548-5292
14	Fri	6:00p	VOTER Deadline	N. Bickel	684-6302
17	Mon	1:30-2:30p	Health Care	L. Wang	848-5765
19	Weds	4:30-5:30p	Action Meeting	D. Swift	548-4808
25	Tues	1:30-3:30p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904