



Call to Convention Saturday, May 7, 2016

LWV BAY AREA BIENNIAL CONVENTION

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area will hold its biennial convention on Saturday, May 7, 2016 from 9:30 am until Noon at the San Mateo County Community College District Board Room, 3401 CSM Drive in San Mateo.

Important amendments to the Articles of Incorporation and to the By-Laws will be presented for approval. The budget and program for 2016-18 will be debated and adopted by convention delegates. The Board is not recommending an increase in the LWVBA dues. Board members for 2016-18 will be elected.

PROGRAM

9:00 - 9:30 am Continental Breakfast
9:30 am - 12:00 pm Meeting

PROGRAM TOPIC:

Review of League History MTC/ABAG and actions taken by the Bay Area League from the 1960's to the present

VOTING DELEGATES

As with the LWV California and the LWVUS conventions, delegates should be informed about what their local League thinks about the proposed items but are not instructed as to how to vote on any of them. The number of voting delegates is determined by local league membership count as of January 31, 2016 according to LWVBA ByLaws. With 226 to 300 members, the LWV Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville is allowed four delegates and the president.

LWVBAE has paid a fee to LWVBayArea that allows attendance for our delegates and all our members. Join us.

👉 Call to Convention 👈 LWVUS 52nd National Convention June 16 - 19, 2016 Washington, DC

Join hundreds of passionate, engaged leaders for this vibrant national gathering • Dynamic discussions on how the League shapes and influences the national debate on key issues and challenges facing our Democracy • Timely and relevant Calls to Action • Speakers • Networking • Making Democracy Work
Find more information and registration for Convention and Lobby Day online at forum.lwvus.org

Kickoff: League “Get Out the Vote” Campaign & Annual Meeting Thursday, May 19, 5:15 pm

Join the League for the rousing-and-free-kickoff celebration of its Get Out the Vote Campaign on Thursday, May 19, at Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley. Before the free program, the League offers an optional buffet supper at 5:30. The cost is \$17 for members and \$20 for non-members. The deadline to reserve supper is Monday, May 16. Details below.



At 6:30, Ira Marlowe will open the program with some humorous, satirical, and sometimes raunchy, political songs. Marlowe is the composer and lyricist of the [San Francisco Mime Troupe](#). An accompanist will join him for this performance. The Mime Troupe's productions are satirical agit-prop street theater performed free each summer in

Bay Area parks. At his recently opened intimate private club, [The Monkey House](#), on University Ave. in Berkeley, Marlowe hosts and performs musical programs.

Mindy S. Romero, founder and director of the California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP) at the UC Davis Center for Regional Change, will report new demographic facts and suggest practical tools to help the League and other groups encourage young people and under-represented communities to register and vote. She will respond to audience questions.



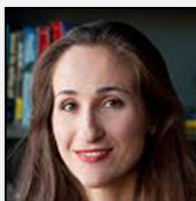
Dr. Romero's scholarly work focuses on the relationship between political behavior and race and ethnicity. Her research is specifically relevant to California communities. Dr. Romero is a recognized expert on civic engagement and political rights, who has testified before the National Commission on Voting Rights and the California Legislature. She works with the League and other civic organizations to apply detailed demographic data to wage effective campaigns to expand the size and diversity of the electorate. KQED is currently working with Dr. Romero to produce a series on voter engagement in several California communities. A political sociologist, she earned a Ph.D. in Sociology from UC Davis.

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And Annual Meeting
May 19**

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Welcome New Members:

Emily Beckhusen
Sasha Lippman-Goldberg
Kathy O'Regan
Linda Pratt
Katherine Welch

In Memorium:

William Craig
Ruth Ganong
Ruth Maguire
Sylvia McLaughlin

- Mina Jenner, Membership

Many Thanks to Our Donors

Elaine Chandler Patricia Kuhi
Mary Jacobson Nancy Riddle
Preston Jordan Elizabeth Warrick

Thanks to Richard Hom of Mustard Seed Promotion
for his in-kind contribution.

- Elizabeth Russell, Donations Secretary

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

Voting for Candidates in the June 7, 2016 Primary Election

If you are registered as a member of a political party, you will be given a ballot with that party's candidates. If you have not stated a party preference, you may request a ballot for one of these 3 parties:

- American Independent Party
- Democratic Party
- Libertarian Party

Anyone else should update his or her voter registration before May 23 in order to get a ballot to vote for candidates for a party outside of their current registration. In other words, if you wish to vote for a Republican candidate, you must be registered as a Republican. If you wish to vote for a Democratic candidate, you may be registered as either a Democrat or no party selected. Go to the Registrar of Voters website to confirm your current registration and change it if you wish. If you have moved since the last election, you are required to update your voter registration.

The Alameda County Registrar of Voters look-up is at
www.acgov.org/alco_ssl_app/rov/voter_info/voter_profile_welcome.jsp

From there, find a link to the Secretary of State to add or change your registration. Please freely share this information!

No Party Preference Info Voting in Presidential Primary Elections

Each political party has the option of allowing people who register to vote without stating a political party preference ("no party preference" voters - formerly known as "decline-to-state" voters) to vote in their presidential primary election. A political party must notify the Secretary of State's office whether or not they will allow "no party preference" voters to vote in their presidential primary election 135 days before the election.

If a "no party preference" voter wishes to vote in the presidential primary election of a political party which has notified the Secretary of State that they will allow "no party preference" voters to vote in their party's primary, a "no party preference" voter would simply ask their county elections office or ask a poll worker at their polling place for a ballot for that political party. A voter may not request more than one party's ballot.

- Phyllis Gale, Voter Services
- Deborah Malbec, Communications Chair

Last Day to Register to Vote

May 23, 2016 by 5 pm

Last day to request a Vote By Mail Ballot

May 21, 2016

Presidential Primary Election Day

June 7, 2016

Get Ready for the Presidential Primary Election June 7



**My Voice.
My Vote.**

Your new League source for all unbiased election information is: <http://votersedge.org/ca>.

Voter's Edge California is produced by LWVC and MapLight and replaces Smart Voter. Voter's Edge California will give you all the excellent information Smart Voter supplied - your voting location and ballot, nonpartisan

information about candidates and ballot measures. MapLight provides information about where candidates and ballot measures are getting their money. For more information, see the story by Abigail Bok, LWVBAE's Voter's Edge California Coordinator, on p. 4.



For today, we will provide high-level information for the Ballot Measures. The League's summaries, pros & cons, and action positions will be distributed first at the Annual Meeting on May 19th and then will be available online. The LWV California Easy Voter also will be available at the Annual Meeting.

State of California Proposition 50

Suspension of Legislators. Adds rules to the state Constitution about how to suspend state lawmakers, not just how to expel them. Suspension would require a 2/3 vote of fellow lawmakers, and the suspended lawmaker's salary and benefits could be taken away during the period of the suspension.

SEE More about Prop 50 on p. 5

Alameda County Measure AA: San Francisco Bay Restoration Authority "Clean and Healthy Bay"

A \$12 per year parcel tax on property in counties surrounding San Francisco Bay (including Alameda County) to provide revenue earmarked for the restoration of wetlands around the Bay.

SEE Sidebar

Albany Unified School District Measure B: \$70 Million Bond Authorization:

Allow the Albany Unified School District to issue \$70 Million in bonds to rebuild Marin and Ocean View elementary schools to meet current seismic and other standards.

Albany Unified School District Measure E

\$25 Million Bond Authorization. Allow the Albany Unified School District to issue \$25 Million in bonds to replace old portables with modern classrooms and build new classrooms to relieve over crowding.

- Phyllis Gale, Voter Services



YES on AA



LWV Bay Area: Says "Yes" on AA

The purpose of the San Francisco Bay Clean Water, Pollution Prevention and Habitat Restoration Measure AA is to protect and restore San Francisco Bay to benefit future generations by reducing trash, pollution, and harmful toxins, improving water quality, restoring habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife, protecting communities from flood and increasing shoreline public access and recreational areas.

Measure AA would generate about \$25 million per year, totaling \$500 million over 20 years, to fund shoreline projects for protection and restoration.

"I am supporting Measure AA because very few ballot measures provide a regional and sustainable revenue of funding to protect our wildlife habitat, enhance our wetlands, reduce pollution and trash on our coastline while increasing public access and recreational areas and opportunities for our constituents," Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty has said.

Supporters agree that funds are critical to help restore and protect wetlands and wildlife habitat for future generations.

Passing Measure AA to restore our Bay would create urban open space for recreation and increased public access to the shoreline, including extending the Bay Trail and completing gaps on it.

Voter's Edge California: The Place for Everything



You're running out the door to an appointment when a neighbor, knowing that you are a member of the League and therefore must be an expert in all things Election, asks you to tell her all about the propositions on the June 7 primary ballot.

What do you do?

**Tell her to visit Voter's Edge California,
www.votersedge.org/ca**

The League's old Smart Voter has undergone a transformation: it is now called Voter's Edge CA, and it is a partnership between the League and a nonprofit devoted to transparency in politics, MapLight.org. You may have seen an early version of Voter's Edge CA in 2014, but MapLight and the California League have been working for the past two years to upgrade and refine the Web site. 2016 is the year of its real debut.

Starting in early May, you will be able to send people to www.votersedge.org/ca to find whatever they want to know about candidates, races, and ballot measures. (You can even bone up on the election yourself, and nobody the wiser.) Users are asked to enter their zip code and street address to access information about everything that will appear on their ballot, as well as the location of their polling place and whatever else the eager voter might need.

As before, with Smart Voter, the League will ask candidates (starting about the middle of April) to post information about their goals and experience as well as links to their campaign Web site and how to contact them. Their data is vetted by the League to make sure it is positive and meets the League's minimum criteria (no insults against opponents here).

The League will post supplemental materials that include dates and times of candidate forums, links to forum videos, news coverage, and other pertinent data. For the ballot measures, the text as well as arguments by opponents and proponents, the League's Pros & Cons, the number of votes needed to pass, and so on all will be available on Voter's Edge CA.

If you forget the name, no worries: a search for "Smart Voter 2016 election" will redirect you to Voter's Edge CA (past elections are still archived under SmartVoter). So tell your friends and family to head over to Voter's Edge CA for everything they need to know about the June 7 primary.

- H. Abigail Bok, Voter's Edge California Coordinator

LWVBAE PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION CONSENSUS DECISIONS

At the "consensus" meeting March 15 League members discussed and responded to the California League's policy questions. Additional comments added by participants are often more interesting than the responses to the questions themselves, since members could only indicate their views on a scale from, for example, "strongly agree" to "strongly disagree" or the like. Questions posed in the state study were mostly very directed by the way they were presented. Apparently, the state committee's concern was to get agreement on positions they had already assumed would help the state League in the future. They were not the wide-ranging policy discussions that League members enjoy most.

You can read the full report on the LWVBAE web:
<http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news/public-higher-education-consensus-meeting/>

Participants strongly stated in the additional comments that to get broader participation by members, study questions like those presented in this study could have been answered through an on-line survey, with brief background material provided before each question or set of questions. This approach would be better adapted to working and busy members and would preserve the League's tradition of grassroots participation more effectively.

Here is a selective summary of some of the findings: the group endorsed all the purposes of CA higher education stated in the 1950 CA Master Plan: to educate students for their personal, professional, and occupational goals; to provide leaders from all sectors of society; to promote upward mobility; to advance economic and civic goals of local communities and the state; and to emphasize the dual values of access and excellence of the Master plan.

Con't p. 5





Redefine Reinvent Relate

At the February board meeting LWVBAE Membership Growth Consultant Adena Ishii presented her vision on membership through the words: *redefine*, *reinvent*, and *relate*. She outlined how she wanted to “redefine” the way we think of membership by recognizing that membership is part of everything we do as an organization and involves everyone. Ishii wants to “reinvent” the League by adjusting outdated membership materials, creating a membership committee, adjusting the dues structure, and creating systems to track and engage new and current members. She also discussed upgrading antiquated systems, surveying members, and making events more action-oriented and accessible to diverse audiences.

Ishii’s goal is to help the League “relate” itself to the community and become more relevant in everyday life. Ishii argued that people see the League as disconnected from youth and communities of color and inaccessible to people who have full time jobs: “The League needs to grow and adjust, so that we can engage working professionals, parents, and people with diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities. Democracy is about including everyone in the process, and we need to do a better job of reflecting the people who live in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville,” she said.

At the March board meeting, a draft of the new pamphlet was presented, along with a proposed dues structure. A survey for current members also was to be presented, completed and dispersed by April 21st through social media and our weekly email blast. Ishii also announced that she plans to hold trainings on technology and “How to Recruit Members” as well as Membership Socials for potential, new, and current members to learn more about what the League does as an organization, connect, and build community. Please look for these Membership Socials on our email blasts and social media.



Connect to the LWVBAE through Facebook, Twitter, Meetup (see details below). We are looking to grow our online presence. Please contact Adena Ishii online at social@lwvbae.org or call her at 818-620-5821 if you are interested in joining the membership committee, have contact information for new potential members, or have feedback on membership.

Adena Ishii: social@lwvbae.org or 818-620-5821

Facebook: [facebook.com/lwvbae/](https://www.facebook.com/lwvbae/)

Meetup: [meetup.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville/](https://www.meetup.com/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville/)

Higher Education Consensus Con’t from p. 4

Participants agreed that equitable access was important, that state higher education should be affordable to students and supported by the state. The group strongly recommended counseling and a wide variety of supportive services, including special tutoring or classes to bring students who are not ready for university level classes up to the appropriate level. Better coordination between high schools and community colleges and four-year institutions were strongly recommended. Student and school performance needs to be recorded and analyzed so that areas of success and failure in meeting these goals may be identified, the group advised.

The decisions by members and local study committee members at the March 15 meeting were approved by the Board at the March 24 meeting and submitted to the State League. LWVBAE’s decisions will thus help shape the official policy positions on public higher education as they are consolidated with the submissions of other California Leagues. The State Board will then adopt new policy positions of Public Higher Education. These will form the basis for future lobbying and positions on ballot measures and proposed legislation.

You also may want to take a look at the Study Guide also on the LWVBAE web at: <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news/public-higher-education-consensus-meeting/>

- Carol Thomas, Higher Education Study Chair

AIR DISTRICT OUTREACH

Bay Area Air Quality Management District launched a new civic engagement tool, Open Air Forum, an online resource that offers the public a new opportunity to interact with the Air District and provide feedback on specific Air District topics. The first topic is on emissions reduction measures proposed to be included in the Air District’s 2016 Clean Air Plan and Regional Climate Protection Strategy. The Open Air Forum may be accessed through Air District website homepage at www.baaqmd.gov



LWVC Supports Proposition 50

Suspension of Legislators, on the June 7 ballot

1. This constitutional amendment will give the houses of the legislature clear authority to discipline members by suspending them and withholding their pay.
2. Lawmakers should be able to hold their colleagues accountable if they breach the public's trust.
3. Safeguards in the measure will prevent this authority from being misused for partisan purposes.

League Position for Support

Suspension of Legislators -- Proposition 50 would give the Legislature clear authority to discipline Senators or Assembly Members by suspending them without pay. Lawmakers should be able to hold their own colleagues accountable if they breach the public's trust. This commonsense measure was placed on the ballot with strong bipartisan support.

It is currently possible to suspend legislators, but not to suspend their salary or benefits. This measure would allow, but not require, the Legislature to suspend a member *and* deem the salary and benefits forfeited.

Such actions are highly unusual. Over the years, five senators have been expelled, and several senators accused of corruption resigned in 1985. The Assembly has never suspended or expelled a member.

League position on Representative Government: The League of Women Voters supports measures that promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive.

Get Out the Vote & Annual Meeting Con't from p. 1

When the music and political talk and discussion end at 7:30, the League will honor some outstanding Berkeley citizens and League members. A break will allow guests to leave.

At 7:45, at the annual business meeting, members will discuss and vote on the budget for 2016-17 and proposed bylaws changes, adopt public policy priorities—including climate change and “Making Democracy Work” —and elect officers and directors for the 2016-17 League year.

The buffet supper at 5:30 will feature three fresh salads from Bette's Diner and tasty cookies. Guests may order and pay using the form at the bottom of the Annual Meeting story, which may be found on our home page at lwvbae.org. Or send an email to luncheon@lwvbae.org or leave a message at (510) 843-8824 with your name, contact info and number of meals by Monday, May 16. You may then pay at the door.

Northbrae Community Church is a charming and accessible facility at 941 The Alameda in Berkeley. Free parking is at the rear of the facility and on Los Angeles Avenue.

- Lessly Wikle Field, Program Coordinator

LWV Bay Area Regional Report

LWVBA Supports Bay Restoration Authority Ballot Measure AA – June, 2016 Ballot

LWV of the Bay Area has endorsed Measure AA, the \$12 per parcel tax that will be on the June, 2016 ballot in all nine Bay Area counties. This measure needs 2/3 voter approval within the region to pass.

Our Bay Area positions support conservation and development of the SF Bay and enhancement and preservation of the Bay and its shorelines. LWVUS policies on climate change also support adaptation activities related to climate change, such as sea level rise. This measure will generate funding for restoration of San Francisco Bay wetlands, benefitting people, wildlife, and Bay economy.



Since the League was not among the original sponsors, we will not be taking any other major action. Because this is a regional measure, involving all nine counties, the LWVBA is the contact for the League related to any campaigning. We have asked the SF Bay Restoration Authority for improved procedures for project selection and oversight. Also, LWVBA will be preparing Pros and Cons for your use as soon as ballot arguments are filed. *SEE more on Measure AA p.3*

ABAG-MTC Consolidation

LWVBA has been involved as a "Non-Governmental Organization" in the process to assess the consolidation of the ABAG and MTC planning staff, and potential future merger. We were interviewed by the consultants, Management Partners, and have made it clear that our vision is for a fully consolidated regional agency at some point. An Assembly Select Committee has been formed to also consider regional governance issues. More to come.

Bay Area League Day

Videos of our very successful 2016 Bay Area League Day “Reinventing Bay Area Transportation for the 21st Century” are available at lwvbayarea.org. Thanks to all who attended.

- Linda Craig, LWVBA President



Your Vote Really Counts: Watch “Berkeley vs Big Soda”



Berkeley Vs. Big Soda Campaign Workers

In the run-up to the 2016 elections, Berkeley vs Big Soda, the video, is a terrific reminder that every vote really does count and that committed people can beat big money. You can watch the 13-minute video on our website. Look for “Your Vote Really Counts.” The video, by Helen de Michiel for the Ecology Center, shows that personal contact from people in your own neighborhood, from your own ethnic, racial or other group, is the best way to engage and persuade people to register and go to the polls or send in that mail-in ballot. Share this video to motivate folks to register and vote.

The film demonstrates vividly that motivated individuals can work together to beat Big Money; voters and election workers can organize and take back our democracy from moneyed interests who are contributing millions, even billions, to make certain that government serves their interests rather than the interests of citizens.

As of March 2016, Berkeley’s soda tax has generated \$1.5 million for community nutrition & health efforts, including school garden programs.

The League endorsed the measure strongly, but the feet on the ground were organized mainly by a citizen group, Berkeley Healthy Child Coalition, which gathered community support quietly early on. Dr. Vicki Alexander, former head of the Berkeley Public Health Department, School Board Member Josh Daniel, City Council Members Linda Maio, Laurie Capitelli and Max Anderson were among the early organizers, along with many community leaders and organizations.

The Berkeley vs Big Soda Campaign was run very effectively through the Ecology Center. A core of young people of many ethnicities were the heart and soul of the ground game - walking precincts, knocking on doors, calling voters to remind them to vote - right up to the last hours of election day. They had been trained by Larry Tramutola, the political strategist for the campaign, many through TOLA, The Organizing and Leadership Academy that trains groups of young people intensively on how to organize communities effectively.

Con’t next column

LWVBAE Natural Resources: Environmental Concerns Speaker Series

Monday, May 9, 2016

Dr. Margaret Paloma Pavel is President and founder of Earth House, a multicultural media and learning center for environmental and social justice based in Oakland, California to build healthy and sustainable communities through publication and distribution of books, trainings and facilitations. Earth House works internationally, nationally, and regionally consulting to individuals, communities, and organizations on large systems change, strategic communications, building multi-cultural organizations, and leadership development. Dr. Pavel’s organizational clients reflect her core values commitment in areas of health, sustainability, education, and social justice.



Carl Anthony is Founder of Breakthrough Communities, a project of Earth House Center to build multiracial leadership for sustainable communities in California and the nation. He has been a Senior Ford Foundation Fellow at U.C Berkeley Department of Geography working on a book, *The Earth, the City and the Hidden Narrative of Race* examining the connections between fields of environmental justice, community development and the changing face of global urbanization. Prior to his present role, Anthony served as Acting Director of the Ford Foundation Community and Resource Development Unit with a \$39 million annual budget and supervisory responsibility for all the Foundation’s Program Officers in fields of community development and environment and development.

The meetings take place 7:30-9:00 pm at 1174 Euclid Ave. (@ Crystal Way, just north of Eunice) in North Berkeley. Join us the second Monday of the month Sept. 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

Con’t from previous column

You’ll see many familiar Berkeley faces in this video, including Robert Reich, Carol Davis Kennerly, former City Council member and LWVBAE member ...and even LWVBAE president Nancy Bickel is shown joining the last minute get-out-the-vote phoning [at 7:36 minutes into the 13 minute video, just in case you’d like to know].

- Nancy Bickel, President

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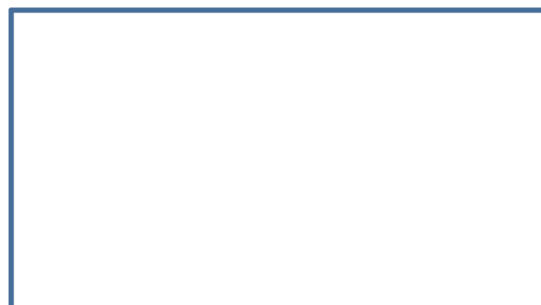
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Calendar

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

May

2 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
7 Sat	9:30a - 12:00p	LWV Bay Area Convention	D. Malbec	843-8824
9 Mon	7:30-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959
12 Thu	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	D. Swift	548-4808
16 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
17 Tues	7:00-8:30p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904
19 Thur	5:15-8:00p	LWVBAE Annual Meeting		

Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley

23 Mon Last Day to register to vote in Presidential Primary Election

31 Tues	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
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June

3 Fri		VOTER Deadline	G. Schickele	415-922-6627
7 Tues	7:00a-8:00p	Primary Election Day		
9 Thu	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	D. Swift	548-4808
13 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
16-19 Thurs-Sun		LWVUS 52nd National Convention, Washington, DC		
20 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
21 Tues	7:00-8:30p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904
27 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389

July

11 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389
25 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389

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