League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville



November – December 2016

Community Choice Energy

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Climate Change Progress 7

NO VOTER Should Be Turned Away From the Polls

2

From time to time, circumstances are such that you may have to vote using a provisional ballot. There's folklore about eligible voters not being able to vote at a poll because a regular ballot cannot be used in some circumstances. On October 6, 2016 the California Secretary of State's Election Division provided guidance to California's County Registrar of Voters to be given to all Poll Workers regarding Provisional Ballots that outlines when to use provisional ballots:

A voter should never be turned away from the polls. "A voter always has the right to cast a ballot, although scenarios will arise where a voter may not be able to cast a regular ballot and he or she will be required to vote a provisional ballot.

A provisional ballot is used when: *Con't p. 3*



From the President... The world changes and so does the way we communicate.

THE VOTER

Read online at http://www.lwvbae.org

In our lifetimes, communications methods have changed greatly. One of my old school chums posted on Facebook, "Remember when we used to ask the telephone operator to connect us to a number? Now many of us don't need to remember the numbers, because we use cell phones and the numbers are stored for us by name."



Deborah Malbec

The daily newspaper used to be the source of most of our current events. Now many papers have gone out of business, and we get our news electronically, and by the time it hits print it is out of date. The same thing is true of our trusty printed "Voter." Often items have changed during the writing and editing process, before it can even get into print. It has been a wonderful tool for us, but it is very labor intensive to create and the world moves too fast for print.

So LWVBAE is going to adjust to the newer, more rapid electronic times. We will still generate a printed VOTER. Nov – Dec 2016 will be our last bi-monthly issue. Starting in 2017, we will switch to a quarterly print cycle. And The Voter will be our secondary, rather than our primary news source. Our website LWVBAE.org is now our first place to go for news. It is updated daily – sometimes more than once a day.

Con't p. 2

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Join us for the LWVBAE Annual Holiday Open House Friday, December 2, 6:00 – 9:00 pm Celebrate with us and all our neighbors ~ This is an open event with all organizations at 2530 San Pablo Avenue (at Parker) in Berkeley

There will be music, holiday yummies, and fascinating conversation. Bring treats for the table!

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Welcome New Members

Mark Coplan returning member Ryan Bani-Hashemi T. Scott Donahue Tanya Edgar Marian Gonzales Margaret Goodman Paci Hammond Roman Kaludi Katherine Logan Kirsten MacDonald Gregory Magofna Melissa McMillion Darryl Moore Christine Oatfield Miguel O'Hara Anne Rosenthal Glicel Sumagaysay Micaela Vargas Karen Zojaji

- Mina Jenner, Membership

Many Thanks to Our Donors

Jane Barrett Jane Bergen Abigail Bok Mary Lou Breiman Linda Burden George Crowe Kathy Dervin Doris Fine Cynthia Lloyd Hillary Reinis Candace Simonen Elsa Tranter

- Elizabeth Russell, Donations Secretary

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

Con't from p. 1, The Way We Communicate

As events are rescheduled or details changed, look to the web for the most current information. For those who want a printed newsletter, we will continue to generate a printed summary of the news from the website once a quarter. But if you want the most recent and most up-to-the minute news, look to LWVBAE.org.

– Deborah Malbec, President



Community Choice Energy Comes to Alameda County

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously October 4 to move forward with the formation of East Bay Community Energy. Thanks to a strong, unified showing by environmental justice and labor advocates, the Supervisors agreed to require that a local development business plan be completed within eight months and also agreed to restrict the renewables portfolio to no more than 1.6% unbundled Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). (Unbundled RECs are, in the opinion of BCAC, a form of greenwashed fossil fuel energy that shouldn't be used at all by our Community Choice program.)

We prevailed in ensuring community representation. A 9-member community advisory board will be seated, though it will not have voting power. And last but not least, the county agreed to include language in the governing documents addressing workers' collective bargaining rights and right to a "just transition" to a clean energy economy.

Many thanks to all who supported this effort. We can look forward to getting cleaner electricity from a noncorporate, not-for-profit agency beginning (probably) in October 2017.

- Submitted by Carol Stone



• A voter's name does not appear on any of the roster lists provided.

• A voter is at the wrong precinct, but still wants to vote at this polling site.

• A vote-by-mail voter wants to vote at this precinct, but cannot surrender his or her complete vote-by-mail ballot, which includes the vote-by-mail return envelope/ID envelope and all of the ballot cards.

• A voter's name or address is different than that listed on the roster lists. CCROV # 16310 October 5, 2016 Page 2

• A voter with "Proof of Residence Required" next to his or her name in the roster is unable to provide proof of residence.

NOTE: The "Proof of Residence" requirement can be satisfied with over 30 acceptable documents listed in your poll worker handbook. A photo ID is acceptable, but is not required to satisfy proof of residence.

• A voter is challenged and the challenge is not resolved in his or her favor. "

Excerpted from the County Clerk / Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #16310 downloaded from

http://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov//ccrov/pdf/20 16/october/16310jl.pdf

- Submitted by Phyllis Gale, Voter Services

Alameda County Registrar of Voters (510) 267-8683

City & County of San Francisco Department of Elections (415) 554-4375

Contra Costa County Elections Division



SmartVoter's replacement VotersEdge (votersedge.org/ca) is constantly updated with the November 8th Election information.



Find in-depth information about what's on your ballot. Get information on your candidates, measures, and who supports them. Keep track of your choices and use them to vote.

Voter's Edge California neither supports nor opposes political parties, ballot measures, or candidates for public office.

The General Election is November 8. Know your rights as a Voter!

LWVBAE series of **Candidate Forums** for Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville, and regional offices and candidates may be found on LWVBAE.org. Watch the forums on **VotersEdge** along with the LWVBAE's YouTube channel.

Local Ballot Measures Pros and Cons along with Easy Voter were published mid-September. Our Ballot Issues Speakers Service provides local organizations information on the ballot issues.



possibilities, please feel free to email president@lwvbae.org or phone Deborah Malbec at (510) 225-9598.

You joined the League of Women Voters because about your vou care community and you care about democracy. There are many ways you can help the League do its work. Whether you are ready to volunteer or would like to discuss the feel free to email

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What's on Your Ballot

Brought to you by MapLight and the League of Women Voters of California

INTERLEAGUES – Bay Area and Beyond

Inter-League Organizations (ILOs) are formal organizations recognized by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). In California, there are four ILO's: San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County and the Bay Area. The Bay Area ILO serves 20 local Leagues from Napa County to Mountain View. Created in 1961, the Bay Area ILO functions within the geographic lines bounding the nine Bay Area counties. These are the same geographic lines as the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), formerly known as The Joint Policy Committee. BARC coordinates the planning efforts of the

Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC), and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC).

Your Input Requested for Bay Area League Day

Housing displacement concerns are far reaching. Our community compositions are fluctuating due to affordability. We're a people in migration changing the face of the Bay Area. This year, League Day will focus on the many reasons causing our housing predicament.

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area (LWVBA) is interested in hearing what topics - related to increasing the Bay Area's supply of affordable housing - most interests you and your League members? Suggestions to date include rent control/stabilization, displacement compensation. inclusionary and zoning State action/inaction on various housing-related issues. Have you heard an interesting speaker or viewed an informative presentation? What individuals or organizations would you like to see participate on a panel? Has your city or county done something noteworthy regarding housing? Send your thoughts, questions and suggestions to LWVBA at housing@lwvba.org.

Supporting Local Transit

LWVBA voted to support the November 2016 BART Bond Measure. The money raised by this General Obligation Bond will be invested in the renewal of the BART system by improving safety and access, repairing and replacing critical infrastructure, and increasing capacity. This will involve replacing and upgrading 90 miles of severely worn tracks, addressing tunnels damaged by water intrusion, and upgrading the 44-year-old train control systems. A seven-member bond oversight committee will provide quarterly reports to the public on the progress of work being done.

LEGISLATIVE VICTORY! OUR HARD WORK PAYS OFF

News from League of Women Voters of California Great things are in store in California with so many new laws going into effect:

Money in Politics

- SB 1107 removes the ban on public financing of campaigns, helps level playing field for candidates.
- SB 1349 modernizes the state's online database of campaign finance and lobbying information.

Climate Change

• SB 32 and AB 197 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect disadvantaged communities and those most affected by this pollution.

Voting Rights and Redistricting

- AB 2466 makes it less likely for Californians to be unfairly denied their voting rights after a criminal conviction.
- SB 450 makes voting more accessible with vote-bymail ballots, early voting, and vote centers, starting in 14 counties in 2018.
- AB 958 establishes a Citizens Redistricting Commission for Los Angeles County, and SB 1108 allows all other California cities and counties to have these commissions, too.
- AB 350, AB 2220, and AB 2389 promote better representation and protect voting rights when local governments change to district-based elections.
- AB 2010 helps local candidates reach voters with more affordable, online options for displaying their statements in official election materials.
- PreK-12 Education and Juvenile Justice
- AB 1014 and SB 527 reduce truancy and serve students at risk of dropping out of school, as required by Proposition 47.
- Immigration
- AB 2792 protects rights of immigrants in local custody.

Natural Resources and the Environment

- SB 122 supports the public's voice in land-use decisions by streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.
- SB 7 promotes conservation by requiring individual water meters in new multifamily housing.
- SB 1262 protects our long-term water supply by preventing the overuse of groundwater in new developments.
- AB 2480 puts funding of watershed restoration projects on an equal basis with other water infrastructure.
- These wins aren't possible without your support! Thank you to everyone who responded to our action alerts and made your voices heard in Sacramento. For information LWVC.org



CIVICS EDUCATION TEAM Coordinator: Ruby MacDonald

Join us to contribute your ideas!

Civics Education has been of interest to many LWVBAE members over the years. Nevertheless, it hasn't been easy to settle on the focus of a Civics Education Team, in spite of the periodically spiking concern sparked by events and movements in our community.

Civics Education has re-started now with a defined, doable and timely project – to prepare a brochure to guide first-time voters at Berkeley High School in this presidential election year. The brochure was distributed at the yearly Berkeley High School Senior Student Registration on August 22 at the LWVBAE Voter Registration Table. The result of the project: <u>Brochure for the New High School Voter.</u>

and **Pre-Registering** Registering Young Voters Energized LWVBAE volunteers Mark Coplan, Phoebe Watts, Bob MacDonald, Jay MacDonald, Helene Lecar, Bobbie Spike and Ruby MacDonald registered 18-year-olds and preregistered 16- and 17-year-old Berkeley High students at the BHS Club Fair in September. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the Leaguers handed out tangerines (appreciated by health-conscious students!) and collected Get-Out-The-Vote slogans from students hoping to win a \$50 gift card for a local eatery. The winning slogan was featured in our Get-Out-The-Vote efforts, including the BHS Mock Election October 3 to 7 and National Voter Registration Day September 27.

How **GOTV?** to Boost Student To boost voter turnout or getting-out-the-vote (GOTV) among high school students, a new strategy was tested in the form of a contest for the best GOTV slogan at the September Berkeley High School Club Fair. Students passing by the LWVBAE Voter Services table were encouraged to write their slogans on Post-Its for display on a large flip chart. To maximize submission of slogans, a \$50 gift certificate for PID Bakery in downtown Berkeley was offered to the creator of the best GOTV slogan. The winner, chosen by vote of the League members attending the next Voter Services meeting, was BHS student Yosabel Tekeste. Yosabel said she had never written a slogan before, much less entered a slogan in a contest! Perhaps motivated by the prospect of winning the prize, she made up two slogans on the spot, one of which was the winning entry: "Use your voice - Make a choice - Go to Vote." LWVBAE Voter Services posted flyers bearing Yosabel's winning slogan around Berkeley High to advertise the Mock Election October 3 to 7. Hopes were high that Mock Election — and General Election — turnout would exceed expectations, thanks to Yosabel's creativity!

Who's Afraid of Prop 13?

Showing signs of wear as the "Third rail of California politics," Prop. 13 was pummeled September 29 by a panel of four, well-known Bay Area leaders at a meeting sponsored jointly by SPUR (San Francisco Bay Area Urban Planning and Research Association) and the reformist nonprofit group, Evolve. An enthusiastic crowd of over 100 attendees, energized by the theme question, "Who's Afraid of Prop. 13?," heard State Senator Loni Hancock, SFUSD Board of Education President Matt Haney, Community Economics Spokesperson Elissa Dennis and Evolve Campaign Director and Spokesperson Ben Grieff make the case for Prop. 13 reform. Each panelist used his or her expertise to focus on a different sector of government likely to benefit from Prop. 13 reform, including education, housing and public services. All agreed on the need to close loopholes in Prop.13 that allow large corporations to evade property taxes. The hour-long meeting ended with questions from the audience and a few suggestions on building the movement's growing momentum.



Left to right, LWVBAE member Ruby MacDonald, State Senator Loni Hancock, LWVBAE member Helene Lecar, and El Cerrito City Council Member Gabe Quinto.

The LWV California is a member of the <u>Make It</u> <u>Fair</u> coalition working for reform of Prop. 13. After the meeting, LWVBAE members Ruby MacDonald and Helene Lecar and El Cerrito City Council Member Gabe Quinto thanked Senator Hancock for her leadership in pursuing Prop. 13 reform over the years to the point where it may occur.

Ruby MacDonald
ruby@lwvbae.org

LWVBAE Environmental Concerns Speaker Series Monday, November 14 Dr. Heather Buckley, Associate Director International Partnerships, University of California Center for Green Chemistry

The mission of the Berkeley Center for Green Chemistry is to bring about a generational transformation toward the design and use of inherently safer chemicals and materials. Berkeley's leading engineers, chemists, environmental health scientists, business experts, and scholars in the law and public policy committed to a unified, interdisciplinary approach to achieving the goals of Green Chemistry. It consists of faculty, researchers, and students in the College of Chemistry, School of Public Health, College of Engineering, College of Natural Resources, the Berkeley School of Law, and the Haas School of Business.

Join us to learn about this innovative program. 7:30-9:00 pm Northbrae Community Church, Berkeley

Monday, December 12, 2016 Earth Justice in Latin America Dr. Anna Cederstav

Dr. Cederstav was born and raised in Sweden. In 1980, her family moved to Connecticut where she attended Greenwich High School and Yale University. She holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley. Anna has a broad background in organic and environmental chemistry, environmental engineering, and environmental policy. Anna joined Earthjustice's International program as Staff Scientist in 1998. She also is Co-Executive Director of the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense (AIDA), a hemispheric environmental law group of which Earthjustice is a founding participating organization. In 2001, Anna served on the global assurance committee for the Mining, Minerals, and Sustainable Development project, and she is currently on the Board of the Center for Science in Public Participation. She will talk of her work with AIDA. Founded in 1998, the Interamerican Association for Environmental Defense uses the law to protect the environment and communities suffering from environmental harm throughout Latin America. The 35 countries of our hemisphere are united under a common environmental flag. 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Note the earlier time - come to enjoy our appetizers and desserts potluck.

THIS IS AN OPEN MEETING * * * WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOCATION * * * FREE PARKING • WHEELCHAIR ACCESS 7:30-9:00 p.m. Northbrae Community Church 941 The Alameda, Berkeley Carol Stone 510-549-0959, seastone11@hotmail.com Gail Schickele 415-922-6627 Save the 2nd Monday of the Month September through May

BERKELEY MINIMUM WAGE COMPROMISE ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

Discussions on minimum wage have been on-going in the City of Berkeley for over three years, without agreement. Proponents of two competing ballot measures have now reached agreement on a City Ordinance, but not in time to keep the measures off the ballot. Both "sides" of the discussion were well-meaning and warranted:

1) concerns over employees being able to live on the wages in the high-priced Berkeley environment, and

2) concerns over whether small businesses will be able to adjust to increases in the minimum wage without severe consequences.

<u>MEASURE BB</u> City Sponsored Measure This measure is the result of nearly three years of discussion and compromise. It increases minimum wage to \$15 per hour by 2019 then increases according to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) – 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. The League previously recommended a YES vote on Measure BB.

<u>MEASURE CC</u> **Citizens' Initiative** This wellintentioned initiative to bring Berkeley up to a living wage does not take into account all of the factors. It increases the 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 previously was neutral on Measure CC because the effect on Berkeley's small businesses, although not fully known, could be severe.

The <u>City Ordinance</u> is a compromise measure, and like most compromises is somewhere in the middle. It requires an increase to \$15 by 2018 with subsequent increases according to the CPI. It requires mandated paid sick leave (six days for small business employees, nine days for others), and transitions youth-in-job training programs to the minimum wage.

The City will try to withdraw the arguments in support of Measure BB and CC and recommend a "NO" vote on each. If either passes, the measure with the most votes will go into effect and overrule the City ordinance.

Mayor Bates recommended that we track progress on the changes in minimum wage, including real impacts on all businesses, especially small business. -lwvbae.org

HISTORIC ADVANCE in CLIMATE CHANGE FIGHT



Fran Pavley (author SB 32) and Eduardo Garcia (author AB 197)

California is pushing

the limits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In the session just closed, the State Legislature passed two bills to reduce emissions to 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 - SB 32 (F. Pavley) requiring the change, and its companion bill AB 197 (E. Garcia) requiring additional accountability for it. Governor Brown has signed both.

The former goal set by AB 32 in 2006 required reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. We're on track for that. The new goal is much harder, requiring California to reach 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 – just fourteen years from now.

Can California do it? Yes, but barely. Work by Lawrence Berkeley National Lab shows that California will reach the current goal of 1990 levels by 2020 using committed policies, but, as seen in the figure below, will need to rely on policies to which the state is not yet committed and to rely on potential technologies and market futures to reach the 2030 goal. A lot can happen in 14 years, and clearly technology will accelerate. The new goal keeps a strong pressure on the market to push for that change.

Cap and trade will help reach the goal, but has been hampered by litigation since 2013. The case brought by the California Chamber of Congress claims that cap and trade is a form of tax and so requires a 2/3 vote.



Comparison of GHG emissions by scenario showing 2020 goal of 1990 levels (431 MtCO₂e/yr) and 2030 goal of 40% below 1990 levels (259 MtCO₂e/yr). Graph after Greenblatt, 2013 (LBNL).

Con't from previous column

AB 197 (E. Garcia) provides transparency and additional accountability for the California Air Resources Board who is in charge of implementing the requirements. AB 197 adds disadvantaged communities and those most affected by air pollution as a priority consideration. It also includes use of social cost of carbon in evaluating the cost-effectiveness of emission reduction measures to better account for the full array of costs and benefits associated with reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Story credit with permission: Price on Carbon.org

ALAMEDA COUNTY STUDENTS ROLLING ON AC TRANSIT CLIPPER CARDS

This August at school registration, students at Castlemont and Fremont High Schools and Frick Impact Academy received Free and Unlimited Clipper Cards providing 24/7 AC Transit rides. This windfall for students is being provided by a new pilot program of the Alameda County Transportation Commission.

Besides students' advantage of a free ride on AC Transit, he or she will be helping to decrease greenhouse emissions and traffic congestion. In the Bay Area, about 40 percent of greenhouse gases (GHGs) are generated from moving sources, cars and light trucks being the primary ones, including vehicles taking students to school during the morning rush hour. Thus, the pilot program will benefit students, their families, the schools, and the environment.

According to the Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District website, in 2014, Alameda County voters passed Measure BB to generate some \$8 billion over 30 years for essential transportation improvements in every city throughout Alameda County. A key priority was affordable transit for youth, seniors and people with disabilities. \$15 million in funding from measure BB has been programmed for the Affordable Student Transit Pass Pilot Program. The Alameda County Transportation Commission leads the development of this program with Alameda County transit operators including AC Transit, San Francisco BART, Livermore Amador Valley Transit Authority (Wheels) and Union City Transit. The program is intended to provide access to transit service for students throughout Alameda County.

If the AC Transit student bus pass pilot program is successful it could be expanded to include middle, as well as high school students throughout Alameda County.

– Excerpted from an article by Gayle Eads, Former Chair of San Francisco Bay Chapter, Sierra Club, and a Member of the Genesis Bus Pass Team, and from the AC Transit website.

BOARD 2016 - 2017

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Voter Services		Phyllis Gale	

OFF-BOARD

Civics Education Ruby MacDonald Environmental Concerns Speaker Series Carol Stone Gail Schickele Membership Growth Coordinator Adena Ishii VOTER Editors Gail Schickele Jeanette Zerneke



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Calendar

Locations-details may change, see the online calendar <u>www.lwvbae.org/calendar</u> Area code is (510) unless noted

November

Novembe	Ľ						
7 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Wrap Up	P. Gale	508-4389			
8 Tues	7:00a-8:00p	National Election Day	VOTE!				
10 Thu	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	D. Swift	548-4808			
14 Mon	7:30-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959			
15 Tues	7:30-9:00p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904			
16 Wed	4:00-5:30p	Civics Education Team	R.MacDonald 524-8961				
30 Wed	7:00-9:00p	LWV Member Social	A. Ishii 81	8-620-5821			
YWCA Berkeley, 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley							
December	r						
1 Thurs	Jan	-Feb-Mar VOTER Deadline	D. Malbec	883-4657			
5 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389			
8 Thurs	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	D. Swift	548-4808			
12 Mon	7:00-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959			
13 Tues	7:30-9:00p	Climate Change Team	R. Beatus	524-6904			
26 Mon	7:00-9:00p	LWVBAE Board Meeting	D. Malbec	883-4657			
T							
January 2							
9 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	Voter Services Team	P. Gale	508-4389			
9 Mon	7:30-9:00p	Environmental Concerns	C. Stone	549-0959			
11 Weds	7:00a-8:00p	Program Planning Meeting	D. Malbec	883-4657			
12 Thurs	7:00-9:00p	Action Team Meeting	D. Swift	548-4808			
23 Mon	7:00-9:00p	LWVBAE Board Meeting	D. Malbec	883-4657			

Check the LWVBAE website calendar for November and December Board meeting dates and times due to changes to accommodate holiday schedules.

The VOTER is published quarterly 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: <u>office@lwvbae.org</u>

Editors: Gail Schickele Jeanette Zerneke

Current and past issues of *The VOTER* are posted on our website 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