



## On January 11 You Can Help Plan League Actions for 2017-18

Our annual program planning meeting will be at 7:00 p.m., January 11. This is your chance to set our education and advocacy priorities for Berkeley-Albany-Emeryville and the California League. Come join us at the office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite F, Berkeley, 7:00-9:00 p.m. to help us make these decisions.

Annual Program Planning meetings in every League let members bring their ideas and discuss them with League colleagues. In alternating years, we discuss National or State League programming. This year is State. Is there a policy area where you think the State League should be active, but we have never studied? Or perhaps our positions are out of date? Now is your chance to suggest changes.

Preparation Is Essential! If you feel strongly about an issue, spend some time preparing a brief and persuasive proposal. Before you attend the meeting on January 11, review the relevant [LWVBAE](#) and [State League](#) positions.

If you'd like to know more about the program planning process for State League and relevant positions, the links to the Program Planning Kit and positions are at the end of the Program Planning story at [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org).

**Now is your opportunity to influence our League's direction!**

**Diz Swift, [action@lwvbae.org](mailto:action@lwvbae.org)**



## Affordable Housing: Bay Area League Day January 28th

Assembly Member Tony Thurmond will be the Keynote Speaker at the Bay Area League Day on Saturday, Jan 28, 2017, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Affordable Housing will be the focus for all the panels.

LOCATION: Camden Community Center, Multipurpose Room, 3369 Union Ave, San Jose. Detailed Instructions on their website [lwvbayarea.org](http://lwvbayarea.org). Carpools will be formed.

TICKETS: Pre-registration—\$35, including lunch, \$20 without lunch; day of the event—\$40 including lunch, \$25 without lunch. Payment info at [lwvbayarea.org](http://lwvbayarea.org).



### PROGRAM

9:00-9:30 — Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:30 a.m. — Opening Remarks; PANEL ONE: Measuring the Affordability Gap & Its Impact

10:30 a.m. — PANEL TWO: The Relationship between Housing Production, Affordability, & Displacement in the San Francisco Bay Area

11:30 a.m. — Keynote Speaker: Tony Thurmond, Assembly Member, District 15

12:00 p.m.-12:45 p.m. — Lunch

12:45 p.m. — PANEL THREE: State, Regional, & Local Roles in Addressing Affordability

1:45 p.m. — PANEL FOUR: The Agenda Moving Forward

## 25% Membership Increase in 2016

Using the lure of 1 year free membership, the League has 76 new members. Welcome to our League. We look forward to drawing you into League activities. Jinky Gardener, Membership Coordinator, and Adena Ishii, Membership Growth Coordinator, help members find their League passion. Contact them at [membership@lwvbae.org](mailto:membership@lwvbae.org). Complete membership story on our homepage at [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org).

## President Deborah Malbec: League Challenges in 2017



What an election season! The ups, the downs! All of the local Berkeley and Albany measures came out with results recommended by LWVBAE. Berkeley voter participation was over 78%—that in itself is a big win,

the highest participation since at least 1980. AC Transit, BART, and Affordable Housing all won funding support. Most of the California State measures were also as League recommended, with the sad exception of the death penalty, which will remain in place, with procedures to hasten it, yet most experts think that Measure 62 will be held up in court battles for years.

On the national front, the will of the majority will not be granted. But we must not give up! Fighting for voting rights, for fair treatment for immigrants, and for medical care support must continue. Working to reverse the effects of climate change requires ongoing effort. The work of the League of Women Voters is even more necessary than before. Our committees will be gearing up for ongoing action—please be an active participant!

**Deborah Malbec, [president@lwvbae.org](mailto:president@lwvbae.org)**

## The November 2016 Election Cycle–In Brief

This election we were busier than during any election in recent memory. California had the most registered voters in State history. Alameda County voter participation was over 75%, and Berkeley was even higher, as Deborah points out in the story at left.

- **Your Action Team** started the November 2016 Election Cycle in early summer by reviewing 39 ballot measures: 17 State, 3 county/regional, and 19 local. Then they
  - Researched and analyzed the local measures.
  - Interviewed their authors and supporters and opponents.
  - Wrote up—for League member discussion—Pro and Con positions, thus enabling members to advise the Board about which measures to support or oppose.
  - Campaigned for measures we supported.
  - Published, distributed, and posted online the State, County/Regional, and Local “Vote with the League” flyers—on paper and our website.
- **Your Voter Services Team** published balanced pro and con information on every measure and produced events for nearly every candidate race that Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville citizens would vote on. Activities included:
  - Produced candidate forums for 65 candidates and for all races in our 3 cities.
  - Recorded all candidate forums, which could then be viewed 24/7 on our website and on YouTube. The local access/government cable stations in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville streamed and replayed the local candidate forums.
  - Published and distributed “Pros and Cons” for all 39 local ballot measures and the 3 regional measures on our website and in our local “Busy Voter” publication and distributed the State LWV “Easy Voter.”
  - Presented “Pro-Con” analysis of ballot measures upon request to churches, civic organizations, and local libraries—using “slide” shows, handouts, and speakers. Our President answered voters’ questions on two local KPFA radio programs.
  - Info about all ballot measures and statewide candidates and most local candidates was available 24/7 on [Votersedge.org/CA](http://Votersedge.org/CA)—the joint online website of LWVC and MapLight.



## Thank you to our Donors!

Barbara Alesandrini	Sarah Miyazaki
Shireen Burns	Julie Nachtwey
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Ora Huth	Therese Pipe
Patricia Low and	Weldon Rucker
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**Elizabeth Russell, Donations Secretary**

The League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville is an 501(c)(3) nonprofit. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

**Phyllis Gale, [voterservices@lwvbae.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvbae.org)**

## Berkeley City Council District 4 Candidate Forum January 19 at 7:00 p.m.



March 7 is Election Day for District 4 voters. From February 6 through March 7, voters will complete an all-mail ballot to choose a new Council Member to represent District 4, replacing Jesse Arreguin, who was recently elected Mayor.

The League's District 4 Candidates Forum will be Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the Berkeley Community Media studio. Voters from District 4 can question these candidates before their mail-in ballots arrive. Please reserve your space on Eventbrite.

### **The Special Election will be an all-mail election.**

Starting on February 6, 2017, voters in District 4 will be sent a ballot in the mail. AND, starting on February 6, voters will be able drop the ballot at the 24-hour Vote-by-Mail drop box in front of Berkeley City Hall until March 7 at 8:00 p.m.; or deliver their ballots to the Alameda County Registrar of Voters office until March 7 at 5:00 p.m.; or send via mail with a postmark of March 7. The ballot must be received by the Alameda Registrar of Voters within 3 days of March 7 to be counted.

Please consult [our elections webpage](#) at [lwvbae.org](#) for up-to-date information on this Special Election.



### **Call for Volunteers and Nominees for 2017/18**

Lots of opportunities to work on League tasks small or larger start in 2017. Berkeley District 4 will be electing a new Council Member. Contact Phyllis Gale at [voterservices@lwvbae.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvbae.org) right away to work on the mid-January Candidate Forum for Berkeley District 4. After that: we'll organize and run other public meetings. Want to lobby or research on urgent public issues? Contact Diz Swift, [action@lwvbae.org](mailto:action@lwvbae.org). Want to write or publish our webstories, eblast, social media, or newsletter? Contact Nancy Bickel, [media@lwvbae.org](mailto:media@lwvbae.org). Jinky Gardner & Adena Ishii, [membership@lwvbae.org](mailto:membership@lwvbae.org), are the go-to people to help find your League niche. For full list of "open jobs," search for "League needs you" on our [website](#).

**Not quite ready to get involved this year but would like to do so after June?** Call the Nominating Committee—or we may be calling you for next year's Board/Off-Board jobs. Chair Nancy Bickel, 684-6302, [nominating@lwvbae.org](mailto:nominating@lwvbae.org).

### **A Quick Rundown of Some of our Teams**

*You are welcome to attend any League meeting—no obligation to join. New teams are always possible.* If you have an issue you want the League to study or publicize or lobby for—present your proposal at the program planning meeting on Jan. 11. See story on page 1. *All meetings are held at the League office at 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA unless otherwise noted.*



**Environmental Concerns** presents a wide range of speakers on environmental issues on second Mondays, Sept.–May, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., in Parlor Room, Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley CA. Team Leaders: Carol Stone, 510-549-0959, [seastone01@comcast.net](mailto:seastone01@comcast.net), Gail Schickele, 415-922-5826, [gails@bayarea.net](mailto:gails@bayarea.net).



**Climate Change Team** meets on third Tuesdays, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m., in the League office. Follows, studies issues, works in large coalitions, organizes public meetings related to reducing greenhouse gases. Leader: Regina Beatus, [climate@lwvbae.org](mailto:climate@lwvbae.org).



**Civics Education Team** meets on third Wednesday 4:00–5:30 p.m., in the League office. Now considering a focus on Prop. 13 reform. Leader: Ruby MacDonald, [ruby@lwvbae.org](mailto:ruby@lwvbae.org).



**Action Team** meets second Thursdays, 7:00–9:00 p.m., League office. Leaguers who are following particular issues report on progress, make proposals for activities, or draft letters that are brought to the Board, approved and acted on. Key issues, lively debates. Diz Swift, [action@lwvbae.org](mailto:action@lwvbae.org).



**Voter Services Team** meets the first Monday of each month at 10:30, in the League office. The frequency increases as an election approaches or as other issues that require meetings arise. Jobs like welcoming people to a Forum don't require meeting attendance. Voting and voter education are core League missions. Leader: Phyllis Gale, [voterservices@lwvbae.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvbae.org).



**Our support teams** always welcome new recruits. You can gain new skills with on-the-job training, use your skills, meet and work with fascinating new and continuing members on the Membership, Finance & Budget, Office Management, and Hospitality Teams. Contact the relevant leaders via [membership@lwvbae.org](mailto:membership@lwvbae.org).

**BOARD 2016-2017**

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# Calendar

Locations and details may change. Before attending please check our on-line calendar at [www.lwvbae.org/calendar](http://www.lwvbae.org/calendar). Area code is (510) and location is League office, suite F, at 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, unless otherwise noted.

**January 2017**

3 Tues	10:30a-12:00p	<b>Voter Services Team</b>	P. Gale	508-4389
3 Tues	7:00-9:00p	<b>League Board Meeting</b>	D. Malbec	225-9598
7 Sat	2:00-4:00p	<b>New Member Social</b>	J. Gardner	548-5292
9 Mon	7:30-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
11 Wed	7:00-9:00p	<b>Program Planning</b>	D. Swift	548-4808
16 Mon	8:00-10:00a	<b>Martin Luther King Jr Day/Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast,</b> Info & Pay: <a href="http://berkeleymlkjrday.org">berkeleymlkjrday.org</a>		
17 Tues	7:00-8:30p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904
18 Wed	4:00-5:30pm	<b>Civics Education</b>	R. MacDonald	524-8961
19 Thurs	7:00-9:00p	<b>Berk Dist 4 Candidate Forum</b>	P. Gale	508-4389
28 Sat	9:00a-3:00p	<b>Bay Area League Day: Housing</b> Camden Comm. Center San Jose; Reserve & Pay at <a href="http://lwvbayarea.org">lwvbayarea.org</a>		

**February 2017**

4 Sat	2:00-4:00p	<b>New Member Social</b>	J. Gardner	548-5292
6 Mon	10:30a-12:00p	<b>Voter Services Team</b>	P. Gale	508-4389
	7:00-9:00p	<b>Berk Dist 4 Election Ballots Mailed to ALL Dist 4 Voters</b>		
9 Thu	7:00-9:00p	<b>League Board Meeting</b>	D. Malbec	225-9598
13 Mon	7:30-9:00p	<b>Action Team Meeting</b>	D. Swift	548-4808
14 Tuesday		<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
21 Tues	7:00-8:30p	<b>Birthday of League of Women Voters/Valentine's Day</b>		
		<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904

**March 2017 - We ran out of room! Please check [lwvbae.org](http://lwvbae.org) for the current calendar information for March. Next newsletter will be mailed April 1st.**

**The VOTER** is published four times a year by the League of Women Voters of Berkeley Albany and Emeryville, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite F Berkeley, CA 94702-2000 Telephone: 510-843-8824 Email: [office@lwvbae.org](mailto:office@lwvbae.org) Many of the articles and events are co-listed on our website [www.lwvbae.org](http://www.lwvbae.org) 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 political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. We support and oppose ballot measures, but do not support candidates or parties.*