

LWW

League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville

THE VOTER

WINTER 2017-18

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

Sign Up for Bay Area League Day for Updates on ABAG-MTC Merger



Bay Area League Day will take place on **Saturday, February 3rd, 9am at Laney College in Oakland.**

This event focuses on the staff consolidation of Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the changes to the governing bodies of both organizations.

The League has been heavily involved in this project for years in an effort to improve regional planning to do a more inclusive and transparent job of dealing with intersecting issues of housing, transportation, and climate change, to name a few.

There will be 3 Panels and a Roundtable Discussion on the Regional Government. Continental breakfast and lunch will be served. “Advanced” ticket price is \$35 and “day of” ticket price is \$40.

For more details and to sign up on Eventbrite, visit www.lwvbayarea.org.

Help Plan Our National and Local League Advocacy and Lobbying

Join us on **Thursday, February 15th at 7pm in the League office** to decide what issues our League wants LWWUS to lobby about next year and what issues we should work on in our local League.

The National League and other Leagues have sent us proposals for national League study or action. Our responses—along with those of all other Leagues—will determine what proposals will be debated and decided at the LWWUS Convention in June 2018.

National is asking for support to continue the campaign for Making Democracy Work[®] as the program for 2018-2020. The campaign has four foci: (1) voting rights, (2) improving elections, (3) campaign finance/money in politics and (4) redistricting. This campaign addresses pertinent voting issues around the country and aligns with our League’s current work. You can read more about National’s proposed program at www.lwv.org.

As a League member, however, you may also make other proposals; you are not required to follow LWWUS’s advice. Participate in the program planning meeting to express your views. This goes for our own League’s priorities as well. Perhaps you have a different area to suggest for League focus other than Prop. 13 reform, averting climate change and voter registration (particularly in low-registration precincts and among 16-18 year olds). If so, you should prepare a proposal supported by a brief explanation.

Interested in preparing a proposal and have questions or don’t know where to start? Contact me at action@lwvbae.org. Thank you.

Preston Jordan, Action Director

BECOME A LEAGUE LEADER IN 2018-19

**MAKING
DEMOCRACY WORK[®]**

We welcome you to apply for the many open board and leadership positions that will be available July 2018-June 2019. If you are a college student, talk to us about developing an internship program. The League will provide letters of recommendation to future employers or graduate schools if completed successfully. For more information about these positions, search for “League jobs” at www.lwvbae.org or contact Nancy Bickel, Nominating Committee Chair, at nominating@lwvbae.org.



LWVC Launches Initiative Petition



LWVC is spearheading the campaign to circulate an initiative petition on behalf of a California broad coalition. LWVC President Helen Hutchison points out that Californians deserve world-class schools and universities, quality healthcare, safe neighborhoods, and affordable homes. We need to close the tax loophole opened by Prop. 13 and stop letting big business rob our schools and local communities, impoverish future generations, and endanger California’s economic future. The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 is the responsible, fair, and long-overdue tax system to ensure California can thrive now and in the future.

The California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018 will create a “split roll”; non-residential, non-agricultural commercial property will be reassessed on a regular basis. This will lead to an estimated increase in property tax of over \$11 billion per year—revenue that will go directly to schools and local governments.

Here are some actions you can take to make this campaign a success:

- **Watch a replay** of the Jan 10 online training that will be available on www.LWVC.org
- **Join the forum at** <https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/lwvc-make-it-fair-campaign>
- **Sign-up for the Speakers Bureau organized by our Prop. 13 Reform Team**

The Team will develop and train you to present the information in a lively and informal question-and-answer format. This relaxed format should appeal to many audiences from senior citizens to college students. Check the LWVBAE web calendar for training sessions.

Interested? Contact Ruby MacDonald at (510) 524-8961 or ruby@lwvbae.org.

Ruby MacDonald, Prop 13 Reform Team Director

“This Was So Enriching” — A Report on December Safety & Justice Forum

I heard my phone ding before we’d even finished loading up my car after our **Safety & Justice Forum**, a first for our community and our LWVBAE.



This ding was a text from the 22-year old black woman who had joined the room full of people that came together to struggle through some difficult discussions of prevention, de-escalation and consequences of community violence. *“This was so enriching!”* her text began. This young woman is active in other meetings addressing inequality, safety and justice with her peers.

The CivilTalk team is studying many models for civil discussion of controversial issues. This forum was led by Dr. Craig and Carole Patterson, network partners from the National Issues Forum/Kettering Foundation. They are experts in this style of “deliberative democracy.” They posed hard questions, urging each participant to consider the positive and negative aspects of his or her proposals about police practices, policies and training, incarceration policies and more, and to take into account financial, physical, racial and mental inequalities.

None of the answers proposed by participants in our discussion were perfect solutions. Some seemed unworkable, others would only work if the process was transparent and if all participants, for example, police and poor or minority citizens, trusted each other. Most of the proposals required additional investments of money, commitment, time, and careful training.

Grassroots style, our belief in the others grew as the afternoon progressed. We began to hear *“more of the pronouns ‘us and we’, than ‘me and them’,”* as one person suggested at closing. Inclusion not exclusion. Participants realized more fully as the discussion continued that our shared task was large, that we had common goals, but many hard choices.

At day’s end, most of us agreed that the event was an enriching experience and a good place to start.

To register for next discussion, please contact civiltalk@lwvbae.org with our meeting date “January 24” in subject line. Using guides available at LivingRoomConversations.org, we’ll meet at the Berkeley League office from 6 – 8pm.

Marybeth Falzareno, CivilTalk Team Chair

Join Us to Get Ready for the June and November 2018 Elections

The 2018 has already begun. Berkeley City Clerk Mark Numainville told us, in a recent meeting, that potential candidates are already picking up paperwork to run in the November 2018 election. At our January meeting, the Voter Services Team will create working groups to cover our voter education areas: Voter Registration, Ballot Measure Publication/Presentation, Candidate Forums, Voter's Edge (LWVC's info source on all issues and candidates), Publicity, and Graphic Design. As a team, we will bring the groups together to form our 2018 Election Campaign.

Our first step will be taken at our **Wednesday, January 17th meeting at 1:30pm**. We will be reviewing the needs of each area, form the working groups, and select leaders for each group.

If you see an area you are interested in working in or if you have any questions, please contact me at (510) 508-4389 or voterservices@lwvbae.org. See you at the meeting!

Phyllis Gale, Voter Services Director

Apply Now to Attend LWVUS Convention in Chicago

League Leaders will have an opportunity to attend the National League Convention in Chicago next June 28-July 1 as delegates. The Convention is an exhilarating and intense education on League issues and a chance to participate in national decision making.



Interested in attending the Convention? Email president@lwvbae.org with "Request to Attend Convention" in the subject line and a brief explanation of why you wish to attend in the text.

Interested in becoming a League Leader? Email nominating@lwvbae.org with "Application" in the subject line and a brief explanation of a job that interests you in the text.

For key Convention-related dates, reminders and notices, go to <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/council-and-convention/convention-2018>.

Election Method Study Update



ideas.

Thank you again to the membership for approving a study of election methods for our cities. The conversations in the Committee's first five meetings have often been thrilling and have resulted in new

In terms of process, the Committee recommended the following study scope statement, which has been approved by the Board:

The study will consider multi-seat ranked choice, a nonpartisan proportional method, and compare it to the multi-seat plurality at large and single-seat ranked choice by district methods currently used in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. The study will judge these election methods by criteria supported by League positions and principles.

Based on the Committee's research, multi-seat ranked choice is the only nonpartisan election method in use anywhere in the world. You can read a description of this method, as well as the methods currently in use in our cities, in International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) Electoral System Design Handbook (A link to this publication can be found on our webpage <https://www.lwvbae.org>. Search for local-election-method-study-proportional-vs-current).

The Committee will develop a study guide and presentations for the membership when they complete their work. Members will decide what policies should be adopted.

If you would like to participate in shaping the study guide, either via joining the Committee or taking on some other role (i.e., graphic or research support for instance), please let me know at action@lwvbae.org.

Preston Jordan, Action Director

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT YOUR LEAGUE IS DOING?

Check out our new pages on:

- **Board Meeting Agendas and Minutes** at www.lwvbae.org/board-meetings
- **New Members** at www.lwvbae.org/new-members

Remember to check regularly for new meeting announcements, news reports and updates, and details on our Voter stories on our website at <https://lwvbae.org>.

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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.

Calendar

All meetings at League office at 2530 San Pablo Ave. unless otherwise noted. Before attending, please check our online calendar at www.lwvbae.org. Area code is (510) unless otherwise noted.

January

- 13 Sat 10-12pm **Prop. 13 Reform/ Civics Ed. Team** Ruby M. (847) 309-2707
- 15 Mon 8:30-11am **MLKJR Breakfast in Berkeley**
(Purchase tickets through Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/berkeley-mlk-breakfast-2018-tickets-37677712051?aff=es2>)
- 17 Wed 7-9pm **Membership Team** Jinky G. 548-5292
- 20 Sat 1:30-3pm **Voter Services Team** Phyllis G. 510-508-4389
- 24 Wed 6-8pm **Women's March in Oakland**
(Visit <https://womensmarchoakland.org/about-the-march/> for more information)
- 29 Mon 7-9pm **CivilTalk Team:** Marybeth F. (925) 639-3738
Living Room Conversations Demo
LWVBAE Board Meeting Adena I. (818) 620-5821

February

- 3 Sat **Bay Area League Day: ABAG-MTC Merger**
- 8 Thurs 7-9pm **Action & Program Teams** Preston J. 418-9660
- 12 Mon 7:30-9pm **Environmental Concerns** Carol S. 549-0959
- 15 Thurs 7-8:30pm **Program Planning** Preston J. 418-9660
- 19 Mon 7-9pm **Membership Team** Jinky G. 548-5292
- 21 Wed 1:30-3pm **Voter Services Team** Phyllis G. 510-508-4389
- 26 Mon 7-9pm **LWVBAE Board Meeting** Adena I. (818) 620-5821