



Spring Celebration & Annual Meeting May 19



Sign up for our Spring Celebration & Annual Meeting! Saturday, May 19th from 11am-2:30pm at Ed Roberts Campus 3075 Adeline St., Berkeley, CA 94703, across the street from the Ashby BART station.

Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/lwvbae-meet>

Come vote for our incoming board and hear updates from our teams.

- Special guests, Vote16 Students from Berkeley High School, will share their successes from their collaboration with our Voter Services Team—when we award them our Spirit of the League Award. Vote16 was the driving force behind passing Measure Y1, which allowed 16 and 17 year olds to vote for school board members, and we partnered with them to register over 350 students to vote.
- Ruby MacDonald and our Proposition 13 Reform Team will give us an overview of the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act of 2018, and
- Action Director Preston Jordan will update us on the voting methods study.

Cont'd at right.

Schools and Communities First! Deadline Extended to June 30—Target Now Nov. 2020 Ballot

Game changer! The state Steering Committee of the Schools and Communities First! campaign to reform part of Proposition 13 announced that signature gathering will be extended to June 30. This change will allow the campaign to put the measure--which requires large business properties to be reassessed every three years so that they pay taxes on their current value--on the ballot in Nov. 2020, instead of Nov. 2018.

LWVC and its coalition partners point out that this change has significant benefits 1) we will meet the lower qualifying signature threshold established in 2014, instead of the anticipated higher signature threshold of 2018, which will save the campaign money 2) we will put our measure at the top of the Nov. 2020 ballot by qualifying in 2018, 3) the coalition will have more time to raise campaign funds and public awareness and to mobilize a larger base of support and 4) we will avoid confusion with the Jarvis measure on the Nov 2018 ballot that would allow elderly homeowners to take their current low property tax with them to a new home in any California county. The Legislative Analyst Office says this measure could reduce the yield of property tax revenue to cities, school districts, and counties.

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Cont'd from col. 1

- **Attendance is free—or you can buy lunch.**
- **Optional Lunch.** Some of our excellent cooks will provide delicious homemade food. The cost for lunch ordered online will be \$17.37 including service fee. Vegetarian and non-vegetarian menus are available at the sign up link above.

Agenda

- 11am-12pm Annual Business Meeting—for LWVBAE members.
- 12-1pm Lunch. Everyone is welcome.
- 1-2:30pm Program & Presentation of Spirit of the League Award to Vote 16.

June 5 Direct Primary Election Coming Right Up

What's on the Ballot? Votersedge.org/ca is your best resource for exactly what is on your ballot. The election pages on our website, <http://lwvbae.org>, now provide easy access to Pros & Cons and to League advice on how to Vote with the League on all measures. Check out all the buttons on the right-hand side of the home page for easy access to Election info.

Election forums on many local races are available—to attend live or watch on video—when you click on the red June Election! button:

Assembly District 15 Forum (Apr 5)
Alameda County Board of Education, Trustee Area 1 (Apr 27)
Alameda County Controller-Auditor, Alameda County Assessor, Alameda County District Attorney (May 3)
District Attorney and Superior Court Judge #11 (May 9)

With thanks to our neighboring Oakland & Piedmont Leagues for their organizing work.

For this election, we welcome our new Voter's Edge coordinator Daniel Roesler and send many thanks to our longtime coordinator Abigail Bok.

*Many Thanks to our Donors
9/1/17 through 3/19/18*

Jean Allen	Helene Lecar
Robert Arnold	A.C. & J.E. Lennon
Morris Beatus & Regina Beatus	Cynthia Lloyd
Jane Bergen	Theresa Pipe
Janice Blumenkranz	Nancy Riddle
Eva Bradford	Ursula Rolfe
Linda Burden	Jeanie & Weldon Rucker
Cynthia Chen	Elizabeth Russell
Suzanne Chun	Margo Schueler
George Crowe	Marion Shapiro
Patricia Day	Sherry Smith
Louetta Erlin	Diz Swift
Samuela Evans	Andrea Washburn
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Bruce Harris	
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Anne Henry & Richard Rollins	Jane Bergen Phyllis Clement

*Elizabeth Russell
Donations Secretary*

Election Method Study Update

The Study Committee made substantial progress before its “winter break”. It settled on criteria for judging the methods under study—single seat ranked choice, single seat plurality, ranked choice at large, and plurality at large. Each criterion selected is supported by League principles or positions. To learn more, read the article posted on the website titled *Election Study Update—April 2018*.

A city or school district election method can have real-life consequences. Some Bay Area cities have switched from plurality at large to plurality by district—in response to threats of lawsuits under the California Voting Rights Act. These include San Rafael, Martinez, Concord, South San Francisco, and Half Moon Bay.

In February, the Albany School Board voted unanimously to request that the Albany City Council put a charter amendment on the ballot to change from plurality at large to ranked choice at large. In March, the Albany City Council voted 2-3 to do so, so the motion to put ranked choice at large on the ballot failed. The Council then voted 4-1 directing staff and the Charter Review Committee to gather estimates from demographic firms to analyze whether racially or ethnically polarized voting combined with plurality at large leads to some racial or ethnic groups habitually not being represented in Albany. This is prohibited by the California Voting Rights Act.

If you are interested in participating in the revived local election method study committee, please contact action@lwvbae.org.

*Preston Jordan
Action Director*

Cont'd from p. 1 Schools and Communities First!

League Leads: Meanwhile, LWVBAE volunteer signature gathering efforts have been so successful that as of April 13, we had collected nearly 1,000 signatures—more than any other League. Overall, Leagues had collected more than 6,000 signatures, the most of any volunteer organization. Paid signature gatherers have collected the rest. As of mid-April, the coalition was on track to meet its required goal of 595,000 signatures.

LWVBAE continues to target voters overlooked by paid signature gatherers, for example, teachers unions, marches by activists, stay-at-home voters, festival and farmers' market-goers.

Let's keep up our good work and do as much as we can to pass Schools and Communities First! so that it will bring in up to \$10 billion annually in much needed new revenue for our schools and communities.

*Ruby MacDonald
Team Leader*

Vote with the League June 5

The Bay Area League recommends:

- **PROPOSITION 68 - California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act (SB 5) – SUPPORT**
This measure would authorize California to issue general obligation bonds, with the money used to finance state and local parks, water conservation measures, water reliability to disadvantaged communities, and flood protection projects. California parks provide open space and recreation, improving health and community well-being. The water projects funded by this bond are forward thinking, and are a key part of our state response to climate change.
- **PROPOSITION 69 - Motor Vehicle Fees and Taxes (ACA 5) - SUPPORT**
If passed, this constitutional amendment would ensure that the existing transportation revenues we pay at the pump and when we register our vehicles can ONLY be used for road and transportation improvement projects. This amendment protects these transportation funds by prohibiting the state legislature from using these revenues for non-transportation purposes. ACA 5 protects existing taxes and fees we are already paying. It does not raise taxes one cent. The League supports measures to ensure adequate revenue to support needed services, including safe roads and good public transportation.
- **PROPOSITION 70- Greenhouse Gas Reduction Reserve Fund (ACA 1) - OPPOSE**
This measure would add a requirement that two thirds of legislators approve the first appropriation of any money collected from the sale by CARB (California Air Resources Board) of Cap-and-Trade allowances after 2024. At a time that we need efficient and effective investments in climate change solutions, this requirement could lead to deadlocks, inefficiency, and poor decisions.
- **PROPOSITION 71 - Effective Date of Initiatives (ACA 17) - SUPPORT**
Currently, an initiative that is approved takes effect the day after the election unless the measure provides otherwise. Election results are not officially certified until five weeks after the election. While most election results are clear shortly after election day, that is not always the case. Prop 71 would provide that an initiative would take effect 5 days after the Secretary of State certifies the election results. This is a common-sense measure, ensuring clarity about what is – and is not – California law.
- **PROPOSITION 72 - Property taxation: new construction: rain water capture system - SUPPORT**
This measure would allow an exclusion from additional property taxes for construction or installation of rain water capture systems. These systems capture, store and use otherwise wasted rain water for landscape irrigation and similar uses, saving more conventional water for personal use. With traditional water sources becoming less dependable, this is one more way we can diversify sources of usable water.
- **Regional Measure 3 –Transportation Bridge Toll – SUPPORT**
The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area supports Regional Measure 3. Consult their Pros & Cons and their letter to the Metropolitan Transportation District on the pros & cons page on our website for a full understanding of the issue. Regional Measure 3 (or RM 3) would increase Bay Area bridge tolls to fund transportation improvements and help solve some of the Bay Area’s growing congestion problems. The measure would generate up to \$4.45 billion dollars to fund major transportation projects in the toll bridge corridors,
- **Measure A—Alameda County Childcare Tax – DECISION PENDING**
Alameda County Childcare and Early Education Measure would expand access to childcare and preschool for low- and middle-income families; help homeless and at-risk children, including help preventing child abuse and neglect; attract and retain quality childcare workers; and add spaces for childcare at locations throughout the county through a 30-year ½% sales tax providing approximately 140 million dollars annually with citizens’ oversight, public disclosure of spending and mandatory annual audits.
- **Measure C - Emeryville Housing Bond - SUPPORT**
The League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville supports C. Its purpose is to provide affordable housing and prevent displacement of vulnerable populations, including low and middle-income households, veterans, local artists, seniors, and the disabled; provide supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness; and help low- and middle-income households purchase homes. The City of Emeryville would issue \$50,000,000 in bonds with an estimated average level of 4.912 cents per \$100 of assessed value, generating approximately \$3,422,000 annually to pay bonds over 27 years. It requires independent oversight and that all funds stay local.

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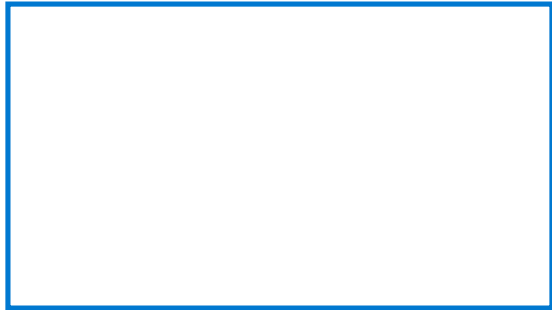
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Calendar

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Current and past issues of *The VOTER* are posted on our website
<https://www.lwvbae.org/voter-pdfs/>

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.

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

May

- 10 Thurs 7-9pm Action & Program Teams Meet
Preston J. 418-9660
- 12 Sat 10-noon Prop 13 Reform Team Meet
Ruby M 847-309-2707
- 14 Mon 7:30-9pm Environmental Concerns
Carol S. 549-0959
- 19 Sat 11am-2:30pm **Spring Celebration & Annual Meeting**
Ed Roberts Campus
Adena I. 818-620-5821

21 Mon All Day **Last Day to Register to Vote**
29 Tues **Last Day to Request Mail-in ballot**

June

- 5 Tues 7am-8pm **Statewide Primary Election**
- 14 Thurs 7-9pm Action & Program Teams Meet
Preston J. 418-9660
- 17 Sun 11am-4pm Juneteenth Celebrated in Berkeley
Music, booths on Adeline near Ashby
- 18 Mon 7-9pm Membership Team Meets
Jinky G. 548-5292
- 28 –July 1 LWVUS Convention in Chicago