



# VOTER



## HEAR YE! HEAR YE! VOTERS SERVICE MEETING



Monday, April 9, 2012, 3 - 5 p.m.

[LWVDV Office](#), 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA

**Find out how you can help with the League's Plans for the June 5 Election.**

All members, old and new, who are interested in Voters Service should make plans to attend. LWVDV is sponsoring three public candidates'/ballot measure forums; scheduling Pros and Cons presentations as requested; sending out dozens of letters with questions for candidates and judges who are on the ballot and inviting them to post their information on Smart Voter; sponsoring our popular Last Chance voter registration drive; and helping to register high school seniors.

Come hear an overview of what these activities involve and how you can help! We need timing and question sorting volunteers, Pros and Cons presenters, registration volunteers, and Smart Voter volunteers.

We'll also be stuffing the Smart Voter letters to the candidates. If you've ever been interested in being trained to be a League moderator, we're going to talk about, too. Hope to see you there!

*Voters Service Director  
Voter Registration Chair*

*Pros and Cons Chair  
Smart Voter Chair*

## LWVUS PRIVATIZATION STUDY

Wednesday, April 4, 2012, 2-4 p.m.

[LWVDV Office](#), 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA



We will answer all of the Consensus Questions (available at [www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization](http://www.lwv.org/member-resources/privatization)) and prepare our report for the Board Meeting on April 10. We must send in our final answers to the LWV-US by the end of April. Join us!



## LWVC Initiative & Referendum Update Study

Wednesday, April 18, 2012, 1:30 p.m.

[LWVDV Office](#), 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA

Should we abolish the Initiative and Referendum Process in California? Or should we reform it? How can we get big money out of the system? Come and share your opinions!



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*By Lee Lawrence, President, LWV of Diablo Valley*

Power the League to Power the Vote! That's the League's theme for this election season, spanning from the June 5 Primary to the November 6 Presidential Election. I hope to see you all at our Voters Service Meeting April 9 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the League office in Lafayette. It's the best way to get involved!

Voters Service is the League's most popular activity; the public has learned to look to us for non-partisan, accurate, unbiased information about candidates (we never support or oppose any candidate) and about ballot measures, voter registration, reasoned pros and cons on issues, poll locations, and election processes. Our public outreach with tangible resources allows us to engage people in our League work and to involve them in having meaningful impact in their communities.

We tip our hats to our outstanding Voters Service leadership and participating members. The Voter Service Director is coordinating our Candidate Forums moderated by Lisa Vorderbrueggen on May 3rd in the Board of Supervisors Chambers in Martinez, focusing on the contested race to succeed Contra Costa Supervisor Gayle Uilkema in District II (Lamorinda, San Ramon Valley) and the new state Assembly District 11 (Antioch, Oakley, Brentwood, Discovery Bay, Fairfield, Vacaville, Rio Vista). We have a SmartVoter administrator who controls our participation in SmartVoter.org, the invaluable resource for fact-based information about candidates and issues that many voters (including me!) consult prior to elections so we will not vote based on ignorance.

The Pros and Cons Chair continues her outstanding . This year we will include redistricting information and key facts about our new open top-two primary system for the June 5 election, as well as two ballot measures (see page 3, *Vote with the League*). Another Chair coordinates about 20 League members as we help keep voter registration boxes full in post offices and libraries across our Orinda to Discovery Bay territory. I look forward to seeing our team at work at the Voters Service Meeting April 9; you come too! We will also update everyone on the latest on the voter registration application, so all will be ready to participate in Last Chance Voter Registration on Monday evening, May 21.

Voter Service is a great time for outreach. Do you know of organizations that might like a pros and cons presentation? Call the office and let us know. It's a good time to reach out to diverse organizations, including youth, college students, and minorities, and to extend our presence in the community. I'm very pleased we are now having Community Service volunteers from local high schools participate in our work, as we reach out to register eligible seniors.

We hope all League members will not only participate in our Voter Service activities, but also invite a friend to join in and possibly to join the League. Most new members come from personal invitations from League members. I remember being asked to join by a League member in the Moraga Commons dog park! Who in your friendship circle would make a good League member? We hope you will ask them.

## LWVC RECOMMENDS...VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE



We **support** Proposition 28, [the Legislative Term Limits Reform Act](#). This simple reform will help make our legislature more accountable and effective. The current limits on how many terms an individual can serve in the legislature would be replaced by a twelve-year limit on the total number of years one could serve—whether in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of the two.

We have taken a **neutral** position on Proposition 29, [the California Cancer Research Act](#). This measure would add a one-dollar per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, and law enforcement.

## -----HELP WANTED-----

### HELP SMART VOTER PROVIDE LOCAL ELECTION INFORMATION

*By the LWVDV SmartVoter County Coordinator*



Smart Voter, the California League's premier online information service, is again providing voters with valuable election coverage on June 5th. How do we do it? By contacting every candidate for local office and asking them to post their information. By checking the information they post to make sure it is focused on the candidate and not his/her opponents. By linking to newspaper articles describing each contest. I am the county coordinator, and I'm looking for people to help. Some tasks are people-oriented on the phone, while others are more computer-intensive (but the computer part is easy to learn). If you might be able to help out, please contact the office at (925) 283-2235.

Remember to tell voters that they should go to [SmartVoter.org](http://SmartVoter.org) to get the most comprehensive and accurate online election information available in California!

### LEAGUE MEMBERS ASKED TO OBSERVE VOTE COUNT



The League of Women Voters of Diablo and the West County LWV have been invited to observe the counting of ballots for the **2012 Community Clean Water Initiative**, the countywide property owners parcel tax that the LWVDV has endorsed.

The vote count will take place in the office of a Walnut Creek CPA, as appropriate under Prop 218. We hope many members will join our board members in volunteering to watch this process for a couple of hours in the second and third weeks of April. Please call our office at (925) 283-2235 to get involved!

### LWVDV IS HOSTING THE BAY AREA LWV CONVENTION

We are hosting the Bay Area LWV Convention at the Lafayette Public Library, 10 a.m. to noon on May 5. The speaker will be Will Travis, a former BCDC director, currently One Bay Area Senior Policy Advisor working with the Joint Policy Committee on formulating a regional climate change strategy. If you would like to volunteer to help provide food and/or welcome participants, please call the League office at (925) 283-2235.

## **LWVDV ENDORSES THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY COMMUNITY CLEAN WATER INITIATIVE**



### **“MENDING THE SOCIAL SAFETY NET” EVENTS**

Our Action Committee and Board are planning a series of programs on Mending the Social Safety Net in Contra Costa County. Our first program, coordinated by our Action Director and our Affordable Housing Item Chair, will focus on homelessness in our county. We are planning an event on the elderly and the disabled for September, and the Children and Family Item Chair is looking at how budget cuts are impacting children, education, and families.

Other programs may focus on criminal and juvenile justice and on health care services. If you would like to participate, please join our Action Committee meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 2 p.m. at the League office. The California Budget Project has some outstanding reports on current and future cuts in the next CA budget. You can find the reports at [www.cbp.org](http://www.cbp.org), or we have printed out a copy at the League office.

### **VOTER REGISTRATION FORM SITE MONITORS**

*By the Chair of Voter Registration Form Distribution*

LWVDV's voter registration form site monitors (and suppliers) are armed with forms and ready for an even busier election season ahead. I commend the twenty members who take care of the seventy or so sites.

Some can take care of one site that they can easily get to and others get around a lot and keep an eye on more, like Beverley Bilge on 8 in East County. There are volunteers for Pittsburg, Rossmoor, the Treat Post Office, Cal State University at East Bay, Antioch, Clayton, Alamo, San Ramon, St. Marys, Moraga, Danville, Orinda, Lafayette, Bay Point, Pleasant Hill, Pittsburg, and Concord.

Thank you all from the League for helping the registration effort as you are out and about or even going out of your way some. This is a substantial source of funding for the LWVDV and it works well/feels good to have the effort spread out among the membership.

Others could help take care of some place(s) near home/work/shopping area, or even take on the responsibility for supplying and reporting some Pittsburg and Bay Point sites. Call me if you might be interested (and it is interesting) in one or more sites listed in our office or that you think would be a good site in Contra Costa County (except west county, where the LWV of West CCC holds sway). If you can help, please contact the office at (925) 283-2235.

## **LAST CHANCE VOTER REGISTRATION MONDAY, MAY 21**

We are looking for good locations to register voters from 5 to 10 p.m. on Monday, May 21, 2012, the last possible date to register to vote before the June 5 Primary. We are looking for high-volume super markets to table that evening. As many members know, we have an arrangement with the Contra Costa Elections Office to deposit the evening registrations at their office after hours.

If you can suggest good locations other than the ones we usually use, please let us know at the League office at (924) 283-2235. And save the date of Monday, May 21, for our Voter Registration work! Do you have a friend who might want to participate? If so, please ask them to join you. It would be a good introduction to the work of the League.

## **MORE INFORMATION ON ONE BAY AREA PLANNING**

*By the LWV of the Bay Area Liaison Director*

MTC/ABAG will issue in April a more complete set of policies and strategies that can aid local jurisdictions in bringing sustainable communities into being. Meanwhile, we have a report on the regional planning process for the region's next forty years. Released March 9, it confirms that most future growth in the Bay Area will be in Santa Clara County, followed by Alameda County and the East Bay, notably in the Dublin and Concord growth centers. Due to meetings with the public and local governments last year, selected growth centers are being offered help as Priority Development Areas. PDAs are transit-oriented infill clusters with appropriate higher density housing adjacent to work, school, and commercial facilities. The need for this approach arises from the state mandate to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions from our car, truck, and bus traffic.

This new informative draft report, "*Jobs-Housing Connection Scenario*," is available as a PDF file at [www.onebayarea.org/](http://www.onebayarea.org/). It defines future growth, once recovered, to be strong and sustainable. Activities by local planners will be recognizable but more technical and specialized to meet 21st century demands. New growth will be integrative, with local governments working together with regional agencies to supply amenities and infrastructure. The PDAs will use greater connectivity with transportation and housing with other community needs. These developments may be eligible for grant assistance. Input from the public at large, from workshops, telephone polls, and website surveys, after analysis is available for review at [www.onebayarea.org/workshops/winter\\_2012\\_results.htm](http://www.onebayarea.org/workshops/winter_2012_results.htm).

MTC/ABAG suggest an assortment of housing types and transportation choices to suit growth and investments tailored to each city or town. Is the next generation in your town going to share the same age profile as the current one? Will it want to find plug-in recharging stations at convenient places? Issues like these will be considered. Regional planners have been in dialog with county congestion management agencies and local staffs over data collected and resulting scenarios created for different situations.

Two general trends have been seen in recent years, according the Bay Area Council and others. The first is slow but steady employment growth shifting from outward expansion to infill on underutilized land in existing urbanized areas, serving an aging population with pending baby-boomer retirements. The rate of this growth is forecast only slightly greater than national employment growth rates.

The second trend is the shift from dispersed employment and housing growth toward more focused growth. This is illustrated in the job growth in the city/county of San Francisco. In 1975, it held 33 percent of jobs, but by 2010, it held only 16 percent. Dispersed outward growth cost us in loss of agricultural lands and forming high levels of traffic congestion and longer commuting times.

Steve Levy of the Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy warns that our ability to produce housing affordable to incoming job-holders will be constricted, which creates pressure for longer commutes. His analysis is contained in the report mentioned earlier. Employer parking spaces will max out unless commuters take advantage of shuttle services run by employers in private business parks, and car or vanpools riding on high occupancy toll roads.

A year ago, many local communities objected to their allocated high projected growth numbers. Others thought the numbers acceptable if development monies were available for infrastructure. Numbers have now been adjusted, and PDAs address the location of most new growth in areas best suited to receive it. Two hundred PDAs of varying size and designations will be developed all through the region. They will be modest in rural towns, whereas medium-sized centers may contain mid-rise and high-rise buildings. Some small suburban communities show a mix of townhouses and 2-to-3 story commercial structures. Fewer centers will concentrate on higher development. Many new PDAs seek to move away from a "project-by-project" design toward the creation of suitably scaled complete communities that meet the daily needs of residents and workers, day or night.

Contra Costa County's new Priority Development Area place types are shown on the newly amended map (approximate locations):

- One Regional Center - Concord North BART/Community Reuse Area
- Three City Centers - Concord In Town, Walnut Creek Transit Center, Richmond Intermodal Center
- Three Suburban Centers - Antioch, Oakley, San Ramon (future) City Center
- Eight Transit Town Centers - Antioch, Oakley, Pittsburg, North San Ramon, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Hercules Intermodal, Hercules, Richmond, El Cerrito
- Six Mixed Use Corridors - Pleasant Hill/DVC/El Cerrito, San Pablo, Pinole, Hercules, Richmond

League members, make a copy of the report mentioned above. It contains numerical tables and maps, all of which help us communicate with our local governments. Nothing is cast in concrete. We have an opportunity to open dialogs over future growth issues, and for us to understand some of the business of local councils when we show up as Observers.

**DONATE**

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org).

**The League of Women Voters  
of Diablo Valley Voter**

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Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND DIRECTORY UPDATES

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back cover, and send it with your dues to the League Office. If you already have renewed, thank you!

## SAVE THE DATES



- May 3:** Candidates' Forums  
Board of Supervisors, 651 Pine St. Martinez  
Congressional District 11 candidates, Assembly District 11 candidates  
East County Fire Protection
- May 5:** Bay Area LWV Convention at [Lafayette Public Library](#) 10 a.m. to noon.  
Speaker: Will Travis, former BCDC director, currently One Bay Area Senior Policy Advisor working with the Joint Policy Committee on formulating a regional climate change strategy  
**Host: LWV of Diablo Valley**
- May 18-20:** League of Women Voters of California Council Meeting  
[Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza, 300 J Street, Sacramento CA 95814](#)
- May 21:** Last Chance Voter Registration 5:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
League members will register voters at local Safeways, etc.
- June 5:** Primary Election in California  
Adopt a Poll at League Office, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette. Volunteer!
- June 9-10:** LWV of the United States Convention, Washington DC
- June 16:** Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley



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**ADDRESS SERVICE  
 REQUESTED**

**The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.**

**Membership: Join Us or Renew!**

Membership is not based on ability to pay. To pay alternate dues or to request a scholarship, please contact Carole Woods at the League office:  
 (925) 283-2235.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$65 Individual Membership. Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_  
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Please print, complete, and mail this form along with your check to:  
 LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR**

<b>Apr. 3</b> 2 pm	<b>Action Committee</b> <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>Apr. 4</b> 2 pm	<b>Privatization Study</b> <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>Apr. 9</b> 3 pm	<b>Voters Service Meeting</b> <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>Apr. 10</b> 2 pm	<b>Board Meeting</b> <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>Apr. 18</b> 1:30 pm	<b>I.R. Study Meeting</b> <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>May 1</b> 2 pm	<b>Action Committee</b> <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>May 3</b> 7 pm	<b>Candidates' Forum</b> <a href="#">Board of Sups., Martinez</a>
<b>May 5</b> 10 am	<b>Bay Area LWV Convention</b> <a href="#">Lafayette Library</a>