



**2012 Annual Meeting**  
of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley



**8:45 a.m., Saturday, June 16, 2012**  
Lafayette Library Community Hall  
3491 Mt. Diablo Blvd., #107, Lafayette, CA

We will have a review of our year as an organization, the election of Officers and Directors for 2012-2013, and the adoption of Issues for Education and Advocacy for the coming year. The guest speaker will be **Lisa Vorderbrueggen**, reporter and political columnist for the Contra Costa Times.

Breakfast—catered by Café Soleil—will be juice, coffee, tea, bagels, muffins, croissants, Danishes, and quiche. The cost will be \$15 or \$5 for meeting-only attendance with no breakfast. Scholarships are available.

Please RSVP with the form that came with your Annual Meeting Kit and your check by June 11. And please bring the Kit and your Manual to the meeting.

**Action Committee Meeting**

**Friday, June 21, 2012, 4 p.m.**

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

The Action Committee usually meets on the first Tuesday at 2:00 p.m., but Tuesday, June 5, is Election Day. Our office is a polling place, through our Adopt-a-Poll program, where stipends of League members serving as clerks and inspectors for the Election office are donated to our League.

Our Action Committee is one of the key groups of members carrying out our mission of advocacy and action. We recommend bills for the LWV-DV Board to support, positions to take on local ballot measures, and recommendations we may have for local city and town councils when they address issues we have studied. This work keeps the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley a visible, effective, and engaged organization in central and eastern Contra Costa County. All item chairs and interested members are invited to attend.



**LWVC Initiative & Referendum Update Study**

**Wednesday, June 20, 2012, 1:30 p.m.**

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

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

As we plan for our Annual Meeting on June 16 at the Lafayette Public Library Community Hall, it's time to look back over last year and forward to next year.

We have been productive and attentive to *our core mission* of encouraging informed and active participation in government:

- We have celebrated the 100th Anniversary of Women's Right to Vote in California. Assemblymember Joan Buchanan and Danville Town Council's Newell Arnerich joined over thirty League members and portraits of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Carrie Chapman Catt at a reception reviewing the impact of women's votes on our society.
- We applied for and received a grant of \$500 from the LWV of California for public education supporting the redistricting process and the new Citizen's Redistricting Commission. Also, we:
  - Provided proposed maps in four workshops discussing redistricting in eastern and central Contra Costa County.
  - Closely observed county level redistricting at the Board of Supervisors' meetings and public presentations.
  - Continue to use the maps, posters, and easels supported by the grant at candidate forums, events, and meetings, as well as in our office windows, allowing voters to see their new, far more compact districts.

### **Voters Service/Citizen Education inspires our hands-on work to safeguard democracy:**

- Our Voters Service Vice President moderated city council and mayoral candidate forums in San Ramon in October.
- Our Voter Registration leader recruits and supports many League members who keep voter registration applications in boxes in post-offices and libraries across Diablo Valley.
- We have instituted a new Youth Voter Registration Drive at the 23 high schools in central and eastern Contra Costa County, contacting government teachers and principals to supply programs, registration forms, and educational materials for seniors turning 18. We will continue this program through the fall Presidential election.
- We observed the vote counting process for the County Community Clean Water Initiative.
- A League member and former Walnut Creek School Committee member moderated the District 2 Supervisor Candidate Forum as Tomi Van de Brooke, Sean White, and Candace Andersen vie to succeed the late Gayle Uilkema in representing the newly redrawn District 2, which includes the San Ramon Valley, Lamorinda, and parts of Walnut Creek.
- Our League co-sponsored the forum on the East Bay Fire Protection Parcel Tax, moderated and timed by League members.
- The Pros and Cons Chair convened a Pros and Cons meeting to review Propositions 28 and 29 on the June 5 ballot for League members. Subsequently a member and the President presented Pros and Cons in Walnut Creek using her excellent script.
- A League member organized our Adopt-a-Poll for June 5: our League office becomes a polling station, staffed by League members who donate their stipends to our League. A member will serve as Inspector, with support from others who will serve as clerks.

**Action and Advocacy increases our impact and effectiveness in creating safe, strong, vibrant communities:**

- We successfully supported the new Bonita Farm Housing in Knightsen for the seriously mentally ill before the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors last summer.
- We have protected urban limit lines in San Ramon and Brentwood in local elections, and endorsed the county-wide Community Clean Water Initiative preventing polluted storm water run off.
- We have supported Measure A in Moraga, providing a parcel tax for K-8 schools.
- For the June 5 Primary, we have endorsed Antioch Measure J supporting a bond for Antioch High School renovations. We have endorsed Pittsburg Measure P, a temporary sales tax increase to support public safety and other government services. Additionally we support the East County Fire Protection District's parcel tax increase to upgrade paramedic and fire services to usual community standards.
- We now have a LWV Observer Corps program in some of our local cities and towns, monitoring local city/town councils and school boards. Our Observer Corps members are the eyes and ears of the League in each local community, alerting the board if issues relevant to League positions arise and ensuring local compliance with key democratic processes, including the Brown Act. This program will increase our visibility and impact in the twenty-four communities we serve in the Diablo Valley.
- We have sent letters of support to our legislators for key bills in the 2011-2012 year, including several measures for affordable housing, the Disclose Act for campaign finance reform on the state and national level, and opposing the House bill enabling central Valley farmers to take-over water rights, dismantling years of state legislation.

**Program: Keeping our smart, active League members and the public educated on key issues before our communities:**

- Last year we completed a national League study on Education, chaired locally by a LDVDV member, including a town hall with Rep. George Miller, chair of the House Education and Labor Committee, co-chaired by our Action Chair.
- This spring we completed a national League study on privatization, and we anticipate the LWV of the United States will issue a position on this important issue shortly.
- We have begun a state Initiative and Referendum Process Update Study which will continue through next year, chaired by a LWVDV member. What reforms should the League recommend?
- We held two panels on Water issues co-sponsored by Scholar Olli at the CSU East Bay campus in Concord.
- We are planning several panel events on "Mending the Social Safety Net" focusing on seniors, children/families, health, and criminal justice.
- We propose to make mending the social safety net in a time of economic downturn, and our county level criminal justice system for prisoners and juveniles program priorities for 2012-2013.

This fall we anticipate major voters service activities and engaging many of our members in our non-partisan Presidential elections activities, with 8-10 state initiatives on the November ballot. We will also focus on leadership development and empowering our new members to get involved. We hope you will bring your ideas, interests, skills, and dreams to our League.

# THANKS FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

By LWVDV Treasurer

Thank you to all the members who donated to our Education Fund or our Chapter account. It's going to make a difference when the summer slows down and we don't have much income, and it will certainly be good to have the funds when the election approaches and we have so many expenses. If you have not responded to our fund-raising letter, please consider doing so. We appreciate your support!



## LWVDV ENDORSEMENTS

**The LWV of Diablo Valley endorses Measure J, a bond measure for renovation, modernization, and safety needs at Antioch High School.** The bonds, monitored by an Independent Citizen's Oversight Committee with no funds spent on administrators, would provide new, permanent classrooms, science and computer labs, and a library with a college and career center, and would improve electrical systems, enabling student access to computers and technology. Antioch High School was built in 1954, almost 60 years ago, and has not seen major renovations; the students it serves deserve adequate facilities, enabling them to succeed in the 21st century. The measure also supports modernization in intermediate and elementary schools. The League of Women Voters strongly supports equal access to quality education that challenges all students to reach their highest potential. Measure J meets League criteria for bond measures: the funding of needed capital improvements. We urge voters to support Antioch students and vote Yes on Measure J in the June 5 Presidential Primary Election.



**The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley endorses Measure P, a proposal by the city of Pittsburg for a temporary tax increase in support of city services,** including public safety, gang prevention, job creation programs, and the Senior Center. The tax increases by a half cent for five years, decreases to a quarter cent for the next five years, and terminates in ten years; the measure includes citizens' oversight, mandatory audits, and consistent community reporting. Because of the economic downturn in 2008, city revenues from sales and property taxes have fallen by \$2.6 million, and the city faces a possible \$2.7 deficit. Cutbacks have already reduced the city workforce by 22%, and health and retirement benefits have also been reduced. The League of Women Voters supports government having adequate revenues to perform its functions. Public safety services are critical to citizens' well-being. Further reductions would undercut crucial community activities. This temporary sales tax increase is appropriate in a time of economic downturn and meets League criteria for tax increases: citizen oversight, a specific termination period, adequate auditing, and public disclosure. We urge Pittsburg citizens to vote Yes on Measure P.

**The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley endorses Measure S, the East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District parcel tax.** Measure S preserves existing emergency services, adds paramedic services, and prevents the closure of up to 3 additional fire stations and layoffs of up to half of existing firefighters. It enacts a parcel tax of \$197 per year on each parcel in the district, with an annual cost of living adjustment not to exceed 3%, and terminates in 10 years. The money could not be taken by the state or the county. The district covers far East Contra Costa County: Brentwood, Oakley, Discovery Bay, Bethel Island, Knightsen, Byron, Marsh Creek, and Morgan Territory. This fire district has been long underfunded compared to its neighbors, and this measure provides increased paramedic services, including one paramedic on each engine. Measure S prevents lifesaving response times from increasing. The League of Women Voters supports adequate revenues for government to perform its functions. East County residents and firefighters should not have substandard services. We urge district citizens to vote Yes on Measure S.

# Smartvoter TEAM GETS CANDIDATE INFO TO VOTERS

By Ashley Coates, SmartVoter Coordinator

[Smartvoter.org](http://Smartvoter.org), the website sponsored by the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, invites every candidate for all races to post their information for free, so voters can become informed. Also posted are the local measures and any pro and con arguments. I am the coordinator for Contra Costa County, which means maintaining SmartVoter.org for all local races plus several state and federal races. Several LWV members helped me with this election: One member converted .pdf files of local measures into text files and uploaded them, then she read postings by candidates to make sure they met SmartVoter guidelines. Another member posted links from race pages to taped debates and to news articles. The LWVDV President telephoned candidates to make sure they received their invitations and to prod them to post their information. West County members helped with races in their area. THANK YOU!!!

We will need even more team members for the November election. You can choose the type of work that seems interesting/fun and fits with your schedule. Work will start in September and continue through the day before election. (You don't have to be available to work every day). We also will need people interested in publicizing [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org). If you may be interested in any of these functions, please contact the office for more information.

## HAVE A GRAD IN YOUR LIFE?



If you have a graduate in your life, send them a [graduation/voter registration e-card](#)! If you don't have a computer, call them and encourage them to register and vote. Be sure to also remind friends and family that if they have moved since the last election, they may need to update their voter registration. Doing that is easy at [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)!

The upcoming election is a perfect opportunity to encourage everyone you know to [Vote with the League](#) and to explore [SmartVoter.org](http://SmartVoter.org). And you can encourage them to join the League, or better yet, give them a gift of membership!

## OBSERVATION OPPORTUNITY

*CONTRA COSTA COUNTY TO COMMENCE SELECTION OF VOTING PRECINCTS FOR THE CANVASS 1% MANUAL TALLY FOR THE JUNE 5, 2012 PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY ELECTION*



On Thursday, June 7, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. the Contra Costa County Elections Division located at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez will commence random selection of the voting precincts to be included in the 1% manual tally required by Elections code 15360 as part of the Official Canvass for the June 5, 2012, Presidential Primary Election. The 1% manual tally will commence shortly thereafter. Interested persons, who would like to observe this process, may call (925) 335-7800 or go to the Elections Office located at 555 Escobar Street in Martinez for more information. Observers will be asked to show picture identification and sign in to be admitted to the selection and tally area.

# REPORT FROM THE LWV-CALIFORNIA COUNCIL MEETING

*By Lee Lawrence, LWVDV President*

Every even-numbered year our state League holds Council meetings for the sixty-three League presidents in California, alternating with state League Convention in odd-numbered years. All presidents are voting delegates; non-presidents can also participate, but cannot vote. LWV of Diablo Valley president Lee Lawrence drove with another board member to Sacramento this May 19 to participate. Highlights were:

- Leadership Development is a key emphasis for the League this year, particularly empowering younger members. “Leadership for the Future” was the theme of the Council meeting and emphasized in the opening session were:
  - How can we continue to engage the younger generation in League work?
  - CA League and possibly national are considering how to change our fundraising. Can we eliminate PMP payments and the high barrier to membership of our dues?
  - How can we reach out into our communities to increase our diversity, the League brand, and our effectiveness and impact?
- CA League President Jennifer Waggoner and new Executive Director Melissa Breach are lively and engaging with interesting new ideas and are under 50!
- Luncheon Speaker Kim Klein of Klein and Roth Consulting presented data on the effect of economic inequality on health and other social variables (mental illness, incarceration, suicide), and addressed the language of values in talking with voters about taxes: “we all do better when we *all* do better.”
- The Initiative and Referendum Process Update Study was the topic of one workshop: consensus questions and reading resources will be available in June. This is another opportunity for the League to reform the political process, as we did with redistricting.
- A second workshop addressed the use of social media in League work. Facebook and Twitter drew particular focus, as well as ways to make use of our website and track the results of our work. We need to move from emails with attachments to emails providing website links.
- Mac Taylor, California’s Legislative Analyst, was our Banquet speaker on Saturday. He addressed our serious budget situation, which may be a deficit of \$17 billion dollars; our need for more revenues as well as controls on spending; and how a two-year budget cycle might not help much, but would allow the Legislature to spend much more time and attention on oversight of governmental programs and processes.
- Networking: we had a chance to see our Management Training Advisor, Bonnie Hamlin; to meet the President and new Executive Director, and the Communications staff of the state League; and to check in again with Advocacy and Action board member Helen Hutchison. The League is also considering forming a budget committee.

In sum, it was a wonderful Council meeting with a sense of an energized, active, forward-looking state League that will increase our resources and impact at the local level. Save the date for the 2013 League of Women Voters of California Convention in San Jose: May 18-20, 2013.

**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**  
Published monthly except  
June and December

LWV of Diablo Valley  
500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA 94549  
925-283-2235 [www.lwvdv.org](http://www.lwvdv.org)

Editor: Jeanne Melaugh  
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Email delivery is free, but delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year.  
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



- June 1:** Action Committee 1:00 p.m.  
Board Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA
- June 5:** Primary Election in California  
Adopt-a-Poll at League Office, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette CA.
- June 9-10:** LWV of the United States Convention, Washington DC
- June 12:** Board Meeting 1:00 p.m. Board Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette CA
- June 16:** Annual Meeting of the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley 8:45 a.m.  
Lafayette Public Library Community Room
- June 20:** Initiative and Referendum Update Study 1:30 p.m.  
500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette CA
- July 21:** Board Retreat, Sequoia Room, 500 St. Mary's Road, Lafayette, CA



**LWVDV VOTER**  
 Published ten times per year  
**League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley**  
 500 St. Mary's Road, #14  
 Lafayette, CA 94549

**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 \_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$95 Family Membership (2). Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Associate Membership. Indicate NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_  
 (For a student or non-citizen non-voting member)  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ GIFT MEMBERSHIP (circle appropriate category above)

Gift Membership from: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please write recipient's information below.)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 included to receive printed copies of the *Voter* by US Mail  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation to LWVDV (not tax deductible).  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV (not tax deductible).  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION to LWVC.  
 Please make separate check payable to LWVC - Education Fund.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please print, complete, and mail this form along with your check to:  
 LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR**

<b>June 1</b>	<b>Action Committee</b> 4 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>June 5</b>	<b>Apopt-a-Poll</b> <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>June 12</b>	<b>Board Meeting</b> 1 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>June 16</b>	<b>LWVDV Annual Meeting</b> Community Hall Lafayette Library
<b>June 20</b>	<b>I.R. Study Meeting</b> 1:30 pm <a href="#">LWVDV Office</a>
<b>July 21</b>	<b>Board Retreat</b> Lafayette Community Center