





**Action Committee Meeting**  
Tuesday, August 7, 2012, 2 p.m.  
[LWVDV Office, 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA](#)

**Meeting for Members**  
Saturday, August 18, 2012,  
10:30 a.m. to noon  
[500 St. Mary's Road, Sequoia Room, Lafayette](#)




- The League Recommends: learn the League positions on the 10 ballot measures on the November Ballot
- Initiative Referendum Update Study: get the Consensus Questions and readings for the state League update study on Initiatives and Referendum
- Pros and Cons: learn how you can present both sides of the ballot measure arguments to groups throughout Diablo Valley
- Candidate Debates: how to volunteer to time our Televised Candidate Debates, how to train as a moderator
- Socializing, networking, getting to know League members—bring friends!



**St. Mary's College Voter Registration**  
Thursday, August 23, 2012, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.  
[1928 St. Marys Road, Moraga, CA](#)

With the Orinda-Moraga-Lafayette branch of the AAUW, we will be registering voters and providing League information on St. Mary's campus on their Weekend of Welcome (WOW!). Please contact the office at (925) 283-2235 if you can work a shift.

**Save the Date**



What: "Senior Safety Net?"  
When: **Saturday, October 6, 2012, 1 to 3 p.m.**  
Where: Dollar Clubhouse, [1015 Stanley Dollar Drive](#), Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, CA  
Speakers:

- **Shirley Krohn:** President of the Contra Costa Advisory Council on Aging, California Senior Assembly Member on the California Senior Legislature (representing Contra Costa County) and an expert on senior legislation
- **Debbie Toth:** Chief Executive Officer at Rehabilitation Services of Northern California, Executive Director of the Mt. Diablo Center for Adult Day Health Care, and an expert on law affecting implementation of federal and state regulation for senior services

Open to the public. No cost. **See details on page 7.**

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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

We are heading into our heaviest work season, the four months before the November 6 election. We are getting many requests for Pros and Cons, for speakers on The League Recommends re the ballot measures, and to moderate candidate forums. Voter registration is a key theme. In our Youth Voter Registration Drive, we have emailed 230 government, social studies, and civics teachers in the Diablo Valley. In our Last Chance Voter Registration on October 22 we hope to register 800 new voters.

The national League of Women Voters of the United States is now highlighting *membership and leadership development* as key aspects of every League's work. Our greatest source of new members are the *friends of current members*. As we engage in our pre-election activities, who in your friendship network might make a good League member? We encourage all members to invite a friend to time at candidate forums, to attend our Mending the Social Safety Net events, and to help with Last Chance Voter Registration.

At the excellent suggestion of one of our board members we will be instituting a monthly membership meeting, which will introduce new members to our various League activities and provide an opportunity for networking, socializing, fun, and getting to know members.

Leadership development means training other members in all the activities we engage in so that we have a reservoir of expertise throughout the League. Having mentors will help people learn the ropes of various positions and activities. As we are a *League* of Women Voters, we hope each of us will include other members in all of our activities. As one member said, "If you are doing League work alone, you are doing it wrong."

This is also a time to remember and stress our NONPARTISANSHIP. We never support or oppose any candidates for elective office. Our neutrality is key to our capacity to moderate candidate forums and in voters' perception of us as a trustworthy organization. This also means that for the six months before an election we do not participate in programs featuring candidates other than formal candidate forums. We also provide the SmartVoter.org website for voter education about the candidates. Here again, our nonpartisan position is very important. Candidates who supply us with information about their priorities, background, endorsements, and positions on issues rely on our even-handedness and complete neutrality. Prominent board members, such as the President, the Voter Service Director, and the Action Director, who are the public face of the League, must refrain from all electioneering activities, including phone banks, precinct walking, and political donations to any candidate or party. The League of Women Voters is one of the most respected organizations in the United States. That respect has been earned by meticulous adherence to League processes and policies and by our consistent integrity.

We again have a strong new board going into the election season. We welcome the return of three past presidents, including Leslie Stewart as our new Bay Area Liaison, Martha Goralka as our secretary, and Joan Lautenberger, who knows everything about voter service. A newer member is now Action Director and was our delegate to the League National Convention in Washington, DC, in June. We are delighted with continuing board members and thank them for their dedication and service. Our treasurer will continue her invaluable job, saving us money and making sure our books are in order as we apply to be a 501(c)(3) organization. Our public library item chair is now on the County Library Commission and is an important liaison to women's groups in our area; she will become a Director at Large. Our former LWVBA Liaison will also be a Director at Large and will report on Diablo Valley land use and transportation issues and events. Our excellent webmaster and outstanding Voter Editor continues, although she gives up V.P. for Administration. And we send our deepest appreciation to departing board members who have provided invaluable leadership and achievement in the past year.

# REPORT ON NATIONAL LWV CONVENTION WASHINGTON, DC, JUNE 9 – 12, 2012

By Mary Fenelon, LWV of Diablo Valley Delegate

The LWV national convention was a jam-packed, stimulating four days of plenary sessions, caucuses, workshops and nationally/internationally acclaimed speakers and the frosting on the cake was a fundraiser featuring the renowned Capitol Steps. Over 800 dedicated LWV members attended. The following is a brief overview:

## The Business of the League

### Approved Resolutions

- The Convention approved a motion to review and update our agriculture position: Motion to move consideration of review and update of the LWVUS agriculture position, approved in 1988. Such a review would investigate genetic modification, consolidation in the food industry, money in the regulatory process, and the consumer's right to accurate and comprehensive food labeling.
- It also adopted a concurrence on sentencing policy with the LWV of Washington, D.C., position: *The LWVUS believes alternatives to imprisonment should be explored and utilized, taking into consideration the circumstances and nature of the crime. The LWVUS opposes mandatory minimum sentences for drug offenses.*
- The Convention approved by a wide margin a slightly-revised version of a resolution on campaign finance reform submitted by three Massachusetts Leagues: *We, the representatives of local and state Leagues assembled at the 2012 LWVUS Convention, call upon the LWVUS Board to advocate strongly for all appropriate, duly-considered measures which may include, but are not limited to, a constitutional amendment and which: are consistent with our current positions on campaign finance reform and individual liberties; allow Congress and the States to set reasonable regulations on campaign contributions and expenditures; and ensure that elections are determined by the voters.*

### Budget

The Convention also approved a LWVUS per-member-payment of \$31 each year for the next two years.

### Bylaws

The most important: Article IX, Sec. 2, Convention Composition: changed delegate numbers from one per hundred members to one per fifty members.

## Caucuses, Workshops, and Speakers

- Power Our Voice to Power the Vote Workshop: Carolyn Lukensmeyer of America Speaks discussed the health of our democracy (unaccounted for money, refusal to negotiate, putting party over country); the good news is there are bright, energetic people trying to make a difference. Rick Johnson of Lake Research Partners told us there is a perception gap re LWV: people think about it in terms of their grandmother's work and don't know it is "still around." His advice: BE MORE VISIBLE; LET THE PUBLIC KNOW and emphasize education and information: nonpartisanship, grass roots, community issues, history, voters guides. Michele Molloy, trainer and consultant in strategic communications for positive social change, gave us a mini-workshop in being "Mediagenic" – how to be strategic in working with the press.
- Extreme Fossil Fuel Extraction caucus was highly informative and provided in detail the issues involved in tar sand extraction now going on in some 34 states where we grow our food. It is frightening how this will aid and abet destroying our environment.
- Benefits of Using Vote411 in Election Work caucus explained the interactive web site and how the Maryland state league and Flint, Michigan, local league used this tool for everything from contacts to donor/membership opportunities (LEW).

***LWV National Convention, continued from previous page.***

- Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton gave an impassioned speech at Saturday's plenary session. She has for years been the District of Columbia's "shadow" congresswoman, who is can serve on committees but is not allowed to vote on the floor. Congress's interference in DC's governance and the lack of the privilege to vote by DC residents is an abomination is there ever was one!
- LWV Advocacy to Defend Democracy panel: One of the points here was not enough people know the League still exists and does good work. Too many people think of it as "grandmother's organization".
- Member/Leadership Development Campaign: Attendees were challenged to donate \$15,000 to the MLD campaign; total donated was \$35,022!
- Legislative Priorities: Legislative priorities are environmental defense, health care defense, campaign finance reform, and voter protection.
- Vote Climate with California Caucus: Linda Swift, geologist from UC Berkeley, Sarah Diefendorf, and Laurie David Calpine, provided sobering facts on climate change. From AB 32 in 2006 to Prop 23 to SB 375 and Cap & Trade 2013, California, although the 12th largest emitter of carbon dioxide, is on track to meet its 2020 goals. 97% of scientists agree humans contribute to the climate change (as do 72% of all Americans, 84% of all Democrats, 68% of all independents, and 52% of all Republications), no one know what will really happen.
- Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communication, Annenberg School, and Director of Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania, spoke on what are we selling: advocacy, education, and a better democracy. Idea: daily announcements on public radio.
- National President Elizabeth MacNamara gave two speeches, one as the current president's address and the second as the incoming president, admonishing all League members to stay active, stay visible, and ask people to join.
- Effective Voter Registration Caucus: Discussed creative marketing ideas for voter registration: a skydiving event "Jump for the Vote"; inner city campaigns, school campaigns "Don't Vote in the Dark", and "Students Inside Albany; a four day training on state government for students; and "Be Ready to Vote". These included on-line programs.
- Campaign Finance Task Force Caucus: Discussion on current campaign financing under "corporations are persons", etc.
- Social Media: Understanding the Powerful Ways to Engage and Grow Your Online Community: This workshop provided lots of tips and useful handouts on use of Facebook and Twitter as communication/outreach tools. Biggest advantages: Virtually free publicity, reaching younger potential younger members, and having others help spread the word.
- Address by U. S. Attorney General Eric Holder: Basically he praised the LWV for their good work and discussed how the Department of Justice was looking out for citizen rights.
- League Easy Web for New Users Workshop: Being relatively new to the League, this was helpful for me to understand the tools available (and being developed) for better organization and efficiency.
- Power Tools You Can Use to Power the Vote: A workshop where teams did exercises to actually plan partnering, developing key messages and ideas on visibility and fundraising, and developing a schedule.
- Political Pollster John Zogby, the banquet speaker, was fabulous and had great sense of humor – making the polling statistics actually interesting.
- Partnerships: Several speakers encouraged the importance of partnerships with the ACLU, AAUW, and others.

Thank you for this opportunity to represent the LWVDV at this convention. It was incredibly stimulating as well as a great learning experience in how the League operates and the resources the national League has available/is working on that will be useful to local groups.

*Mary Fenelon, 2012 LWV Convention Delegate*

# BAY AREA PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REVIEW PHASE

*By Sally Germain*

On this past June 11, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) selected its preferred scenario for the development of the Bay Area, designed to reach the legislative mandate to reduce carbon emissions by 2040. At the same time, they initiated the process of public environmental impact review by publishing the Notice of Preparation (NOP). Look for the report on line at [www.onebayarea.org](http://www.onebayarea.org).

During June and July these two agencies working together held five public outreach meetings in the region and several focus meetings with regional stakeholders in equity, business, transportation, and local governments for the purpose of hearing input and suggestions for other alternatives. Since the close of comments on July 11, their work continued in developing five separate EIR alternatives. These five are being defined and analyzed using an integrated regional modeling system combining the UrbanSim spatial economic/land use model and the MTC travel model. Other regions in the U.S (Seattle, Houston, Phoenix, San Francisco) and the world (Paris, Rome, Zurich, and Beijing) have applied its approach with approval of the public and governmental agencies. Furthermore, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) recommended the use of its own 2010 Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines to help set up a microeconomic land use model to be used to analyze and test the effects of growth scenarios on economic welfare, such as housing affordability, land prices, travel costs, and economic development issues like wages and exports.

To help with creating a visualization of the scenarios, the CTC recommended the mapping and other tools demonstrating the Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS) being considered with the University of California at Berkeley's UrbanVision tool with the UrbanSim model. By using UrbanVision, the SANDAG (San Diego Area Governments) is developing its next SCS. With the use of several modeling and visualization tools, there will be interaction among them that reflect how different policies will impact on households, businesses, developers, and governments. They point to locational decisions, profitability, need for infrastructure, rezoning needs.

The five proposed EIR alternatives are as follows:

1. No Project: as though the environment of 2010 continues to 2040.
2. The Jobs-Housing Connection Alternative, the "project" selection made by ABAG and MTC. Focusing on Priority Development Areas (PDAs) of concentrated housing, jobs, with transportation services.
3. The Transit Priority Focus Alternative focuses on greater use of development in Transit Priority Project (TPP) areas, less dependency on Priority Development Areas (PDAs), and more investment in AC Transit and BART.
4. In the Enhanced Network of Communities Alternative, emphasis is based on more input from the business community and seeks to eliminate a net daily importation of workers from outside the region. It also would favor reduction of local regulatory constraints seen in PDAs.
5. The Environment, Equity, and Jobs Alternative seeks to maximize affordable housing outside the PDA framework in both urban and suburban settings. It depends on increased transit service to Communities of Concern, and requires less use of the automobile.

During the scoping sessions, the attention to recreation and public services was required to be tested along with other study categories. For the desirable Sustainable Communities Strategies alternative to become adoptable, it must meet the State's greenhouse gas standard. On July 19, the meeting of the joint MTC and ABAG boards were scheduled to finish the comment and review of EIR alternatives. We will know by the July 26 meeting what happened.

At the Contra Costa Transportation Authority meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee on June 27, Brad Beck, Senior Transportation Planner, showed the schedule for the EIR Process for the

## ***BAY AREA PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, continued from previous page***

Bay Area Plan. The meeting on July 19 was for deciding the final alternatives to be accepted for review in the EIR, after which the MTC/ABAG staffs will prepare the Draft EIR of the final alternatives. The Draft EIR with the Draft Plan will begin a 45- to 55-day public review period on December 14. We may expect a series of public review hearings, ending sometime in February and April 2013. Final adoption is scheduled for next April.

Many details on how implementation would be carried out have been left out. Two of the alternatives would weaken parts of CEQA, called CEQA Streamlining. If it is meant to be allowed, a project must qualify for it. In Alternative 3, the intent is to focus on TPPs, the Transit Priority Project eligible areas for higher – density development in this choice, the Vehicle Miles Traveled Tax, and relaxing of CEQA are favored in the urban core areas. Funding is available to extend BART and AC Transit. On the other hand, Alternative 4 favors locating more housing and jobs, requiring significant land use policies and PDA subsidies to help make it happen. Upzoning is included and parking will remain as found today. Another extreme is offered in Alternative 5, the choice for providing much more affordable housing and transit services but not for the future expansion of highways. Located in the urban core and suburban Communities of Concern. A proposed VMT tax will exempt all low-income drivers and parking minimums will be reduced for affordable housing developments.

## **FLASH FOR RESIDENTS OF WALNUT CREEK**

FROM A TIMES ARTICLE ON JULY 20: The Draft Environmental Impact Report was introduced by the City of Walnut Creek for the long-awaited Public Review of its BART Transit Village project. The public has 45 days--until August 31--to read the report and comment on it.

**What is in it?** It is a redesign of the Walnut Creek BART station area at Ygnacio Valley Road and California Boulevard, covering in various ways its 16.5-acre footprint. It affects the current station, bus terminal, and open parking lots. Its location is central not only to the city but to the county.

**What is to be placed there?** The project is expected to cost \$100 million. Its objective is to erect 595 apartments, 22,000 square feet of retail and commercial space, 16,700 square feet of flexible commercial-residential space, a new bus station, 4,000 square feet of office space, and a new five-level, 948-space parking garage.

Look for the project's environmental consequences and their mitigations. The report indicates only three significant impacts from traffic. Two of them can be mitigated with the payment of impact fees and monitoring. The build-out will be in phases and will see completion in 2018. The DEIR describes a number of transportation improvements, which explains why there are so few impacts. One change to be seen is an improved alignment at Oakland Boulevard and Ygnacio Valley Road. Why is Walnut Creek taking on this project?

It is part of the Bay Area Plan to fit in more housing and jobs near an improved transit center, in a Priority Development Area. When completed, it will reduce the number of vehicle trips per day to the BART station area. The concentration of greenhouse gases and noise will be mitigated. Construction near the freeway, where diesel-fueled trucks travel, will be furnished with special air filters.

Assistant city planner, Scott Harriman, says until now a lot of negotiating and work has been accomplished. The project, when in front of the city council, will invite discussion of the DEIR's many issues. **Where can you see a copy of the report?** Online at [www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/bart\\_tod.asp](http://www.walnut-creek.org/citygov/depts/cd/planning/bart_tod.asp), at the downtown City Library, 1644 North Broadway, or at City Hall, 1666 North Main Street.

**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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## **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 DATE OF SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6: "SENIOR SAFETY NET?"**

State and county revenues for all budgets have shrunk dramatically during this recession, while an aging population grew and its needs expanded. Demand is up, but supply is on a downward slide. Tax money ultimately fuels the civic obligations for low income or disabled senior residents of the county. Just as downward adjusted property valuations or foreclosures have cut into cash for our schools and unemployment has cut into sales or income taxes, the money stream for everything else has been drying up, including services for seniors.

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley has conducted focused forums on education and in October they will co-sponsor an event with partner Cal State East Bay Scholar-OLLI on the frayed senior health/social safety net. Many county elders used to depend on county nutrition programs, in-home supportive services, and low cost/ subsidized transportation options. They appreciated socializing with people their own age at day care centers where they had contact with professionals in social welfare, public health, and senior health care fields and obtained guidance about their financial options.

Money to do all these things for elders was funneled through our county to various non-profits via contracts set by our Board of Supervisors. The county Advisory Council on Aging started this process by examining how various non-profit vendors met the criteria for ever-shrinking funding. Paid county employees whose expert ranks are shrinking also, guided these committed volunteers through contract assessments and compliance. The entire membership of the Advisory Council voted on the recommendations for funding before sending them on to our Board of Supervisors.

**See event details on Page 1.**





**LWVDV VOTER**  
 Published ten times per year  
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 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.

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 LWVDV, 500 St. Mary's Road #14, Lafayette, CA 94549

**CALENDAR**

- Aug. 7 Action Committee**  
2 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Aug. 15 Board Meeting**  
2 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Aug. 18 Meeting for Members**  
10:30 am [Sequoia Room](#)  
Lafayette Community Center
- Aug. 23 St. Mary's Voter Reg.**  
9 am-3 pm [St. Mary's College](#)
- Sept. 25 LWV National Voter Registration Day**
- Oct. 6 "Senior Safety Net?"**  
1 pm [1015 Stanley Dollar Dr.](#)  
Walnut Creek
- Oct. 22 Last Chance Voter Registration**
- Nov. 6 Presidential Election**