



## Moderator & Timekeeper Training for Candidate Forums

**Saturday, September 8, 2012, 10 a.m. to noon**  
**[LWVDV Office](#), 500 St. Marys Road, #14, Lafayette, CA**



Want to learn more about debates and candidates' forums? Please join us for an informal training session for Moderators and Timekeepers. Learn our League format from experienced moderators. You will get tips on how to keep the questions flowing and how to handle difficulties as they happen while keeping your cool. Most Moderators start out as Timekeepers, so come to learn about this indispensable role. All League members are welcome! If you have questions, please call Ann Flynn at 935-1643.

## Televised Candidate Roundtables: September 19, 20, & 21



Our televised Candidate Roundtables with Lisa Vorderbrueggen, political editor for the *Contra Costa Times*, and taped by Contra Costa TV, will be held on September 19 through 21. We will need timers for each morning and afternoon session. This is an excellent way to learn League timing procedures and to be able work with a partner. We will be doing 36 sessions, including local city/town council races, local school boards and special districts, and also a pros and cons on local ballot measures. Our League members are crucial to making this important voter education event possible. Please sign up for timing duties, and come to the training on September 8.

## Training for Pros & Cons Presentations

**Saturday, September 22, 2012, 10 a.m. to noon**  
**[LWVDV Office](#), 500 St. Marys Road, #14, Lafayette, CA**

Kay James will provide instruction on how to conduct Pros and Cons on the 11 state ballot measures that will be on the ballot this fall. This very popular and effective means of voter education is one of our most sought-after programs, and it is lots of fun! You will receive much background information about each ballot measure and a partner to work with.

## National Voter Registration Day



The LWV-US has become a co-sponsor of National Voter Registration Day, a nationwide effort to register voters in publicly prominent ways that can encourage voter registration before the Presidential Election. Our League is planning to do voter registration at BART stations on **September 25 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**, hoping to catch returning commuters who won't be in a hurry. We are currently looking at Orinda, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Concord, Pittsburg, and Antioch as possible sites, but would consider others if at least two volunteers are available for a site. We will also send out media advisories and press releases about this to see if we can help publicize the need for up to date registrations by October 22nd. If you are available to help with this effort, please call our office at (925) 283-2235.



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lee Lawrence, President, LWV of Diablo Valley

A presidential election!

This year stands out for the impact of the Supreme Court's *Citizens' United* decision permitting unlimited donations to campaigns and non-profits and for the significant number of new state laws restricting voting hours, voter registration, and requiring government issued photo I.D.s in order to vote. Our national and state Leagues have been active in addressing these issues. Our LWV-US convention in June approved, by a large margin, a call to the LWV-US 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.*” We note the League of Women Voters of Pennsylvania was the organizational lead plaintiff in the recent Pennsylvania case in which a judge unfortunately upheld the new Voter ID law. The League has filed an *amicus* brief in the Department of Justice's lawsuit with the state of Texas in protection of the Voting Rights Act. And the League was very successful in fighting the Florida restrictions on voter registration. Federal courts have restored voter registration rules and early voting provisions.

Locally we are working on our two major priorities for 2012. The state of the criminal and juvenile justice system in Contra Costa County, with a particular focus on realignment, has led us to observe the open hearings of the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) chaired by Probation Chief Phil Kader. The budget for allocating the \$19 million provided by the state to help this county deal with realignment and the significant influx of non-violent, non-sexual, non-serious prisoners to county facilities from state prisons. The League of Women Voters national convention in June voted to take a position supporting exploring alternatives to incarceration, taking into account the nature of the crime, and our state positions on juvenile justice emphasize prevention and rehabilitation. The sheriff wants to allocate about \$3 million to a 150-bed expansion of the West County Detention facility, a move strongly opposed by community-based groups and by the editorial board of the Contra Costa Times. Should the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley take a position on this issue? Let us know your views. The District Attorney's office has shown particular interest in our positions.

Two panels highlight our second priority, an examination of mending the social safety net in Contra Costa County, this fall. “Senior Safety Net?” is the topic of our Rossmoor event Saturday October 6th, and we will consider the plight of the homeless and affordable housing Saturday December 1 at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church.

We welcome Ann Flynn as our Voter Service Vice President and Mary Fenelon as our Action Director to our board. Each is a skilled administrator. Ann has a strong background in candidate forums and Pros and Cons and brings years of League experience to this new job. Mary joined our League over a year ago and has become a highly valued board member. She has a strong background in affordable housing nationally and in our local community. They have each demonstrated significant leadership as we approach a busy fall of voter service activities and taking stands on local ballot measures. We welcome them, and we know they will be wonderful for our volunteers to work with.



THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
**RECOMMENDS**

November 6, 2012, STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION

**PROP 30 Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act YES**

Proposition 30 begins to move California toward financial stability and adequate funding for all the services we want from our government; we can't continue to cut vital public services like schools and public safety. This measure will provide some much needed income from a temporary increase in income tax rates for the wealthy and a modest temporary sales tax increase. The plan is a part of a balanced approach to eliminating our deficit that includes \$8 billion in cuts, \$6 billion in new revenues, and \$2.5 billion in loans, deferrals, etc., this year. Proposition 30 also guarantees a stable source of funding for counties to pay for their new public safety responsibilities such as housing low-level prisoners and providing substance abuse treatment.

**PROP 31 Government Performance and Accountability Act NO**

Proposition 31 is based on good intentions and has some pieces that, taken alone, the League could support. However, Prop 31 has several significant flaws. There are questions about whether or not the provisions allow local governments to suspend state environmental requirements. What is clear is that there will be significant legal uncertainty, and years of litigation. In addition, the measure prescribes the specific manner of state and local government budgeting and puts this process into the state constitution. Prop 31 has other questionable provisions, such as establishing a significant shift of power over appropriations to the governor at times of fiscal emergency.

**PROP 32 Special Exemptions Act NO**

This measure is not the campaign finance reform measure its proponents say it is. Proposition 32 promises "political reform" but is really designed by special interests to help themselves and harm their opponents. It looks like a campaign finance reform measure but unfairly targets one set of large campaign donors while giving other donors unlimited power. Its ban on payroll deductions for political giving will affect unions but not corporations, and even the restriction it places on contributions to candidates by corporations is full of loophole exemptions. It does not fix the problem of money in politics; Super PACs and independent expenditure committees will continue to spend without limitation.

**PROP 34 SAFE California Act YES**

The SAFE California Act will replace the death penalty in California with a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole. Convicted killers will stay in prison for the rest of their lives, eliminating the possibility of executing an innocent person in California. This will save over \$100 million every year—because the court and incarceration costs are so much higher for prisoners at risk for a death penalty. \$100 million of these savings will be allocated over the next four years to pay for increased investigation of unsolved rape and murder cases. Convicted killers will be required to work and pay restitution into a victims' compensation fund.

**PROP 40 Referendum on Redistricting YES**

We strongly urge a "YES" vote on this referendum on the state Senate maps drawn by the independent Citizens Redistricting Commission. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; it asks if you want to retain the new law, or in this case, the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission. So vote YES to affirm the maps drawn by the Citizens Redistricting Commission, YES—in support of the Commission, YES—to validate the open, transparent process, YES—to retain fair districts.

*The League Recommends, continued from the previous page.*

Adequate revenue to provide for the public good is critically needed. The League supports Prop 30 on this ballot as the best way to provide some relief from the endless cutting of vital government services. We see some merit in the following two measures, Props 38 and 39, but have taken a neutral position on them because of their earmarking of revenues.

**PROP 38 Tax for Education and Early Childhood Programs**

**NEUTRAL**

We are neutral on Our Children, Our Future, the measure supported by the California State PTA and activist Molly Munger. It provides significant funding for education and early childhood programs. In addition, for the first four years, this measure provides money to help the other underfunded government services. However, in the longer term, it earmarks essentially all the new money for education and early childhood programs. These programs definitely deserve to be adequately funded, but so do all of the government programs we support, from mental health programs to the court system to childcare.

**PROP 39 Tax Treatment for Multistate Businesses**

**NEUTRAL**

This measure will close a tax loophole for multistate businesses, generating revenues of about \$1 billion per year—a good thing. However, it earmarks about half the new revenue for the first five years, so that portion can only be used for energy efficiency and alternative energy projects. We are neutral on this proposition because we believe new revenue for the state should be available for all of the programs funded by state revenue—schools, law enforcement, health care, jobs programs, the judiciary system.

The League has not studied the issues in the following measures, and so has **no recommendation** on **Proposition 33** (Auto Insurance Rates), **Proposition 35** (Human Trafficking), **Proposition 36** (Three Strikes Reform), and **Proposition 37** (Genetically Engineered Foods).

## LAST CHANCE VOTER REGISTRATION



Four years ago the month before the last Presidential Election, we registered over 800 voters through this single evening event! We hope to surpass 800 this year. We register voters outside of local Safeways on **Monday, October 22**, after work and throughout the evening, so all who put things off until the last minute or have been too busy can come down and register. Our day starts out with Early Bird Registration at the Lafayette Safeway, where we also do very early morning TV interviews, which go on early news programs and are repeated all day. We also get people who see us on the news coming down to register at 6:00 a.m.! We are repeatedly mentioned by radio stations, as well. We hope you will volunteer to work with us at your local Safeway, and if you have other high traffic stores you think we should try, please let us know. Call the office at (925) 878-1162 to sign up.

## YOUTH VOTER REGISTRATION DRIVE



We have now assembled the emails for more than 230 government/social studies teachers in central and eastern Contra Costa and will be emailing them again to offer to drop off voter registration forms or to appear to conduct voter registration. Our League members in Concord have formed local teams to help supply public, private, and parochial schools with forms. All students who will be 18 on or before November 6, 2012, can register to vote in the upcoming Presidential Election.

We will be recruiting community service high school students from Acalanes High School in Lafayette and from Campolindo High School in Moraga to help at the office with this effort. Please call our office at (925) 283-2235 to volunteer.

## **TAKING A STAND ON LOCAL ISSUES**

Our Action Committee, led by Action Vice President Mary Fenelon, is researching the local ballot measures voters will face on the November ballot, so that they can send recommendations to the LWV of Diablo Valley Board. School boards in Antioch, Knightsen, Martinez, and San Ramon seek additional funds for their schools. Orinda and Moraga seek increases in sales tax to support road repair and services. Contra Costa College District hopes for an \$11 six-year parcel tax for Diablo Valley College, Contra Costa College, Los Medanos College, and Brentwood and San Ramon Centers. The Contra Costa Fire Protection District seeks a seven-year \$75 parcel tax for fire and medical services. We will be seeking our League members' views, as we did for the June local ballot measures, on all the measures that would affect you. Please give your input to Mary Fenelon.

## **LWV EYES ON CHEVRON (AND MORE)**

In the wake of the dramatic Chevron fire, many people have realized once again that they aren't familiar with the alert systems in the county or the regulations that govern the many refineries in the county. For example, did you know that all of the refineries in Northern California are in our county except the one just across the bridge in Benicia?

For over 20 years, the League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley has had a front-row seat in discussions about the important safety issues raised by refineries, as well as a host of other issues relating to hazardous materials, due to the LWV-designated seat on the county Hazardous Materials Commission. The Commission is a broad-based stakeholders group which advises the Board of Supervisors. It was instrumental in designing the county's industrial safety ordinance, which is seen as a national model and which might have prevented the Chevron accident if it had been adopted by Richmond. The Commission supported the formation of the National Chemical Safety Board, which is now investigating the Chevron fire. The LWV representative to the Commission also sat on the board of the nonprofit industry group which designed and built the county's siren system, and the Commission regularly reviews accident alerts and the performance of the telephone alert system.

Currently, Leslie Stewart is the LWV representative on the Commission, but the spot for an alternate is vacant. If you think that being an "insider" and learning more about everything from refinery safety to safe disposal of pharmaceuticals and nanotechnology would be interesting, please contact Leslie or the nominating committee to explore joining the Commission as the LWV alternate. No technical knowledge required, just interest!

## **THE NEW LWV PRIVATIZATION POSITION**

### **Background**

The LWVUS Board approved a new position on Privatization at its June 2012 meeting. The position is based on responses received from the 227 Leagues (including the LWVDV) across the country that participated in the Privatization Study.

### **Position**

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that when governmental entities consider the transfer of governmental services, assets, and/or functions to the private sector, the community impact and goals of such transfers must be identified and considered. Further, the LWV believes that transparency, accountability, and preservation of the common good must be ensured.

***The New LWV Privatization Position, continued from the previous page.***

The League believes that some government provided services could be delivered more efficiently by private entities; however, privatization is not appropriate in all circumstances. Privatization is not appropriate when the provision of services by the government is necessary to preserve the common good, to protect national or local security or to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of society. While the League recognizes that the definition of core government services will vary by level of government and community values, services fundamental to the governance of a democratic society should not be privatized in their entirety. These services include the electoral process, justice system, military, public safety, public health, education, transportation, environmental protection and programs that protect and provide basic human needs.

The decision to privatize a public service should be made after an informed, transparent planning process and thorough analysis of the implications of privatizing service delivery. While specific criteria will vary by service and local conditions, the League believes the following considerations apply to most decisions to transfer public services, assets, and functions to the private sector:

- On-going and timely communication with stakeholders and the public;
- Statement of the circumstances as they exist and what is to be gained;
- Definition of the quality, level and cost of service expected;
- Assessment of the private market; whether there are providers to assure competitive pricing and delivery; (in some cases there may not be multiple providers if a service is so specialized. i.e. high tech, airports.)
- Cost-benefit analyses evaluating short and long term costs of privatization, including the ongoing costs of contract administration and oversight;
- An understanding of the impact on customers, the broader community, environment and public employees;
- An open, competitive bidding process with clearly defined criteria to be used in selecting a contractor;
- A provision and process to ensure the services or assets will be returned to the government if a contractor fails to perform;
- A data-driven selection of private entities whose goals, purposes, and means are not incompatible with the public well-being;
- The careful negotiation and drafting of the controlling privatization contract; and
- Adequate oversight and periodic performance monitoring of the privatized services by the government entity to ensure that the private entity is complying with all relevant laws and regulations, contract terms and conditions, and ethical standards, including public disclosure and comment.

The League believes that the enactment of state laws and issuance of regulations to control the process and delivery of privatization within a state's jurisdiction is often appropriate and desirable. Best practices for government regulation of the privatization process should include the following requirements:

- An open process that allows for citizen input and oversight in a timely manner;
- A reasonable feasibility study and project evaluation appropriate to the size and scope of the project;
- The establishment of carefully crafted criteria for selection of the private-entity (beyond the lowest cost bid);
- Additional consideration for local bidders in order to support the local economy;
- The retention of liability and responsibility with the government entity;
- Allowance for and promotion of opportunities for innovation and collaboration; and,
- Provision for employment, benefits and training plans on behalf of employees displaced as a result of privatization.

**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](http://www.lwvdv.org).

## 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!

### Action Committee Meeting

Tuesday, September 4, 2012, 2 p.m.

[LWVDV Office](http://www.lwvdv.org), 500 St Marys Rd., #14, Lafayette, CA

## SAVE THE DATE



What: "**Senior Safety Net?**"

When: **Saturday, October 6, 2012, 1 to 3 p.m.**

Where: Dollar Clubhouse, [1015 Stanley Dollar Drive](http://www.lwvdv.org), 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

Moderated by: Lee Lawrence, LWVDV President

**Open to the public. No cost.**





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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 \_\_\_
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$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)

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

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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**

- Sept. 4 Action Committee**  
4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Sept. 8 Moderator Training**  
10 am [LWVDV Office](#)
- Sept. 13 Board Meeting**  
2 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Sept. 19, 20, 21**  
am/pm **Candidates' Forum Taping**
- Sept. 22 Pros and Cons Training**  
10 am [LWVDV Office](#)
- Sept. 25 Voter Registration**  
5:30 pm BART Stations
- Oct. 6 Senior Safety Net**  
1 pm [1015 Stanley Dollar Dr.](#)  
Walnut Creek
- Oct. 22 Last Chance Registration**  
Safeway Stores