



LWVC MONEY IN POLITICS ACTION ALERT

The LWVC co-sponsors or supports three bills currently up for a vote in the Assembly: SB 2, SB 3, and SB 27. These are part of a series of bills to make it easier to “follow the money” in elections. We are working to pass these bills before the September recess. Please contact your Representative and urge their support.



Read more specific information on page 3 in this Voter.

ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, September 3, 2013, 2 p.m.

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

LWVDV BOARD MEETING

Thursday, September 12, 2013, 2 p.m.

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

National Voter Registration Day is September 24th!

Mark your calendar, and be sure to let Ashley Coates know if you want to help with voter service activities this fall! *See page 4 of this Voter.*

ACTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, October 1, 2013, 2 p.m.

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

LEAGUE LEADERS' LETTER

By Leslie Stewart, VP Admin & Lee Lawrence, VP Action

It's time to get back to work! It's September, the time of year when traditionally the children went back to school and all the stay-at-home moms headed back to League activities to keep themselves sharp and feel they were accomplishing something important. September is still a good time to take a fresh look at what needs to be done.

What You Can Do Right Now (One-Shots):

- The legislature is wrapping up its season with the usual mad scramble to get bills passed before the September break – help push for the LWV-backed bills that will add transparency to political funds. Carol Murota's information on what you can do is on page 3.
- Also, please take a look at the plans around National Voter Registration Day on page 4 of the Voter and get in touch with Ashley to help in Antioch and San Ramon this year.
- Our water committee (Janet Thomas, Carole Woods and Martha Goralka, with the assistance of Jan Howe) are working on putting together a great program for November to keep up updated on plans affecting the Delta. Let them know if you want to help or have a great speaker to suggest.



Where You Can Be a Big Help Every So Often:

- Step up to be the **Voter Editor**. This takes about a week or a little more at the end of each month. It's a pretty simple job to put articles into a Word template and e-mail it to the printer and send it by e-mail to everyone. And it's a great incentive to keep up with the other levels of LWV as you check out their websites to grab interesting articles! Contact Leslie Stewart, <http://lwvdv.org>, to discuss this wonderful opportunity!
- Be an **Observer** once every three months: Watch your City/Town Council, in person or on TV, at least once every three months and report anything of interest to the League. Observers are particularly wanted right now for Lafayette and Moraga. Training will be provided – contact Lee Lawrence, Action VP, at <http://lwvdv.org>. (Our Concord observer, Carole Woods, recently reported on a fascinating discussion by the city about switching to a two-year term for mayor from the current one-year term.)
- Assist Ashley Coates as a **Voter Service** co-chair: Ashley is extremely experienced and will happily train you in what she is doing. This is a great time to learn – we have some tasks to do this year but no really heavy activity yet.
- Chair a committee: Both **Education** and the LWVUS **Agriculture** Update study are still waiting for leaders, and these are both important topics for the year. Again, training will be provided by experienced leaders if you want it. Contact Lee or Leslie at <http://lwvdv.org> to get started.

MONEY IN POLITICS – HOW TO TAKE ACTION

Three LWVC Money in Politics bills remain on track. Our campaign disclosure bills, SB 2, SB 3, and SB 27, are making progress! The Assembly Appropriations Committee passed SB 2 on August 21 and will vote on SB 3 and SB 27 by August 30. If you are a constituent of an Assembly member on that committee it is especially important to thank them for passing SB 2 and ask them to pass SB 3 and SB 27. Let's keep up the momentum toward passage before the legislature's recess in September!

The Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee passed the bills on August 13.

ACTION:

- **Call your Assembly Member.** You can find contact information at <http://assembly.ca.gov/assemblymembers>. (Often calls to district offices are received more readily.)
- Give your name and say you are calling as a constituent.
- As a constituent and/or a League member, ask for support for passing SB 2, SB 3, and SB 27.

Talking points:

California's good campaign disclosure laws need to be strengthened so that voters get the information they need when it matters most.

- Voters should be able to easily "follow the money" to see who is funding political activity.
- SB 2, SB 3 and SB 27, the Sunshine in Campaigns Act bills, are a comprehensive approach to improving California's disclosure laws.
- Because of the U.S. Supreme Court's Citizens United decision, improved disclosure is the only way for the public to know who is paying for political campaigns.
- SB 2, SB 3, and SB 27 will preserve the integrity of the election process by increasing transparency and letting the sunlight shine in.



SB 2 (Lieu and Yee) increases transparency by strengthening enforcement and improving the information provided to voters about campaign funding. SB 2 will:

- increase the penalties for violating campaign laws so fines are not simply chalked up as the cost of doing business
- require state candidates to "Stand by Your Ad," as federal candidates have done for more than a decade
- toughen slate mailer disclosure. The notice to voters will be required to appear in the same languages as the mailer, and voters will be alerted when third parties or independent expenditures purchase slate mailer ads.

SB 3 (Yee and Lieu) will bring California's campaign disclosure system into the 21st century. Cal-ACCESS, the current campaign and lobbying online disclosure system, dates from 1999 and is sorely in need of upgrading. SB 3 will:

- require a feasibility study, the first step in replacing Cal-ACCESS
- require timely training and certification for campaign treasurers

Money in Politics, from page 3

- increase the fines for late filing of reports, with the increased funds going to the new online disclosure system.

SB 27 (Correa) closes the loophole that allows nonprofits to contribute huge sums in California elections without disclosure. SB 27 will:

- clarify the law about who must disclose donors. Campaigns must not be able to launder funds through nonprofit corporations without disclosing the true source of the money.
- require the top contributors to a campaign be listed on the Internet.

NOVEMBER ELECTION LWV VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

This is an "off-year" election but Antioch, Moraga and San Ramon will have something on the ballot. Martha Goralka and Lucia Trujillo are contacting community service providers in Antioch to provide voter registration forms. We will have several voter registration events plus a Candidates Forum for San Ramon City Council candidates (co-sponsored with AAUW).



How to get Involved (Yes, we need YOU!)

Volunteer to work at one or more of these events and we will be sure to train you beforehand.

- a. National Voter Registration Day 9/24 Pittsburg/Bay Point BART, 3:00 to 7:00 pm (2 shifts)
- b. Register Voters at Moraga or San Ramon Farmers Market (dates TBD)
- c. Be a timer, question runner or question sorter at the San Ramon City Council Candidates Forum (date TBD, late September or early October in the evening)
- d. Last Chance Voter Registration, October 21, Pittsburg/Bay Point BART, 3:00 to 7:00 pm (2 shifts)

It's very gratifying to help someone register to vote--many people thank us when they are done. And it's fascinating to work a candidates forum. The jobs are quick to learn.

Volunteer Today! Let me know which dates and locations you are available.

Ashley Coates <http://lwvdv.org/contact.htm>



SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, November 9, we're planning a forum -- Update on Water Issues -- at the Contra Costa Water District in Concord. Stay tuned!



CIVICS EDUCATION IN CALIFORNIA – CHANGES AHEAD

From LWV California

With so many LWV members interested in education and in civic education in particular, there is some very good news. California's implementation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative has re-envisioned and reenergized curriculum, instructional, and assessment practices to prepare all students for college and career in the 21st century

To achieve this goal, the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning was established by Chief Justice Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson. It is charged with exploring and elevating the status of civic learning and engagement in California's curriculum, instructional practices, professional development for teachers, student testing, accountability systems, existing infrastructure, and partnerships with the community and business. The task force's report with recommendations on revamping civics curriculum in California schools is due in summer 2014.

“Our [Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning](#) has a year to perform its work,” said co-chair Justice Judith McConnell, Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District. The task force met for the first time on July 2 to set out a timeline for activities. The first public hearing will occur **September 25 in San Francisco**.

“We have an aggressive timeline and a lot of ground to cover,” said co-chair Superintendent David Gordon of the Sacramento County Office of Education. “We’ll look at a lot of elements of K-12 curriculum, such as instructional practices, professional development for teachers, and partnerships with the community and businesses.”

The [broadly representative task force](#) includes members of advocacy groups for parents, teachers, school administrators, school boards, labor, and business. The task force will conduct up to six regional meetings throughout the state and provide an opportunity to comment electronically.

The League's task force member, President Jennifer Waggoner, will serve on two sub-committees:

- 1) One is to create a blueprint to address curriculum, instruction, and resources.
- 2) The other is to develop recommendations for inclusion in the 2014 regional meetings relating to business and community partnerships.

We'd like local League members involved throughout the process, including:

- 1) advising President Waggoner for participation in the Task Force sub-committees
- 2) providing testimony at regional meetings
- 3) encouraging community input to the Task Force

To participate in the LWVC members discussion, you can sign up for the Yahoo discussion group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/lwvc-civic-ed/>

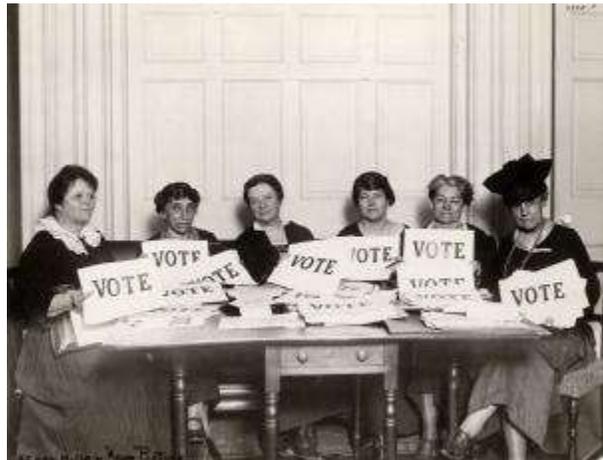
Task Force Timeline:

- 1) draft recommendations January 2014
- 2) Regional Meetings to February 2014
- 3) Civic Learning Blueprint July 2014

Honoring Our Right to Vote

By: Elisabeth MacNamara, LWVUS President -- 08/26/2013

Ninety-three years ago today, following over seven decades of tireless advocacy, the 19th amendment became law and women gained the right to vote. Later this week another important anniversary occurs – the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech, which later helped spark Congressional action on the Voting Rights Act (VRA).



As we celebrate our nation’s progress toward equality, voting rights remain under attack across the country. Earlier this summer the U.S. Supreme Court erased fundamental protections in the VRA against racial discrimination in voting that have been critical to protecting our democracy. **The damage to the VRA can and must be fixed** – Congress has the power to act swiftly to restore the effectiveness of the Voting Rights Act. [Tell your members of Congress to work quickly to repair and restore the VRA to ensure our elections are free, fair and accessible to all citizens.](#)

Upon passage of the 19th amendment, Carrie Chapman Catt, founder of the League of Women Voters, proclaimed “*Progress is calling to you to make no pause. Act!*” These words continue to ring true as we remain committed to fighting back against the attacks on voting rights.

The League is continuing to pursue all avenues to fight for voters’ rights following the Supreme Court’s decision. This past weekend I joined with members of the League and thousands of other activists at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC to mark the 50th anniversary of the March on Washington. Speakers at the rally renewed the call to protect our voting rights and called on Congress to restore the VRA. [Add your voices to those who rallied in Washington and tell Congress to work quickly to fix the Voting Rights Act.](#)

DONATE

To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at 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!

Audrey Albrecht	Ashley Coates	Clara King	Dorothy Ross
Kerin Baker	Ken Coates	Kimberly Lehmkuhl	Adelia Sabiston
Robin Braverman	Olga Disney	Jerri McNair	Frances Schroder
Joana Brueckner	Barbara Hollenbach	Sandra Moriarty	Gwen Watson
Judith Carney	Claire Holmsen	Jean Mosheim	Avon Wilson

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY – SAVE THE DATE!

Open Space is the topic for **Bay Area League Day, Saturday, February 1, 2014, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.** at a location to be announced.

In 1970 the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) issued its *Regional Plan, 1970-1990*, the Bay Area's first comprehensive regional plan. Come to learn what has been achieved since then—probably more than was envisioned in acquisition of parks and open space and down zoning, and also in new land trusts, conservation easements that protect land but retain farm activities, and urban agriculture. The current ecosystem study in Sonoma and Santa Clara Counties will be a focus.

BAY AREA LEAGUE COMMITTEES

In order to address regional issues the LWV Bay Area has committees on HOUSING, NATURAL RESOURCES, and TRANSPORTATION. If you would like to join one of these committees, or, at least, receive committee emails, please sign up! You can e-mail the appropriate person (see names below) through the LWVBA website at <http://www.lwvbayarea.org/contact.html>:

- LWVBA President Marion Taylor (for housing)
- Natural Resources Chair Meg Giberson
- Transportation Chair Alex Starr

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

Editor: Leslie Stewart

Email delivery is free, but delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year.
Current/past issues are posted on our [website](http://www.lwvdv.org).



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

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

Sept. 3	Action Committee	2 pm	LWVDV Office
Sept. 12	Board Meeting	2 pm	LWVDV Office
Sept. 24	National Voter Registration Day		
Oct. 1	Action Committee	2 pm	LWVDV Office
Nov. 9	Water Forum		CCWD, Concord