



**MONTHLY MEETINGS**

See calendar, back page

**SAVE THESE DATES:**

Saturday, Sept 13 –  
Pros & Cons Training  
LWVDV Boardroom

Wed-Fri, Sept 17-19  
(3 days) – Candidate  
Roundtable tapings,  
CCTV, Martinez

Tuesday, Sept 23 –  
National Voter  
Registration Day

Saturday, Oct 4 –  
Pros & Cons  
LWVDV Boardroom

Friday, Oct 17 --  
LWVDV Field Trip, Cal  
State East Bay

Monday, Oct 20  
Last Chance Voter  
Registration

Tuesday, Nov 4  
Election Day

## ***Two Income Inequality Meetings in September***

### **“Inequality For All”**

A showing of Robert Reich's film, followed by a short discussion. This film follows former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich as he attempts to raise awareness of the country's widening economic gap.

**Saturday, September 20, 2014**

**3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**Cedar Room**

**500 St Mary's Road, Lafayette**

Bring a friend! Light refreshments will be served.

### **“Where's the Money?”**

Concerned about the inequality of wealth? Do you wonder how this affects political and social tensions? Ramsay Thomas summarizes NY Times best seller *Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* by Thomas Piketty.

**Tuesday September 30, 2014**

**7 pm – 8:30 pm**

**Lafayette Library Community Hall**

\$5 donation requested to cover room expenses.  
Light refreshments will be served.



## LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President

### Voting = Power

In a recent piece in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, Robert Reich made a strong link between income inequality and voting, two of our major themes this month. After writing about how citizens have lost access to the decision-making process, he said:

*"No surprise we're sick of politics, and many of us aren't even voting.*

*But if we give up on politics, we're done for. Powerlessness is a self-fulfilling prophecy.*

*The only way back toward a democracy and economy that work for the majority is for most of us to get politically active once again, becoming organized and mobilized.*

*We have to establish a new countervailing power.*

*The monied interests are doing what they do best — making money. The rest of us need to do what we can do best — use our voices, our vigor and our votes."*

He unconsciously echoed another quote I'd just seen, from a convention speech by the first LWVUS President, Maude Wood Park:

*"By far the most serious of our opponents is the colossal inertia of large numbers of persons. If this nation ever faces final disaster, it will be because what 'is everybody's business is nobody's business except the self-seekers."*

And finally, from our current LWVUS President, Elizabeth McNamara, on the battle for voting rights in many parts of the country:

*"Protecting voting rights also involves making sure that every eligible voter is registered, informed and able to vote on Election Day. We understand that the single greatest challenge to our democracy is not too many people voting, but too few."*

### **"Your mission, should you choose to accept it" . . . is not impossible.**

Come to our September meetings to learn more about Robert Reich and income inequality. Sign up for our voter service activities this month and next. Talk to friends, inform voters and build the power of our democracy!



### Light at the End of the Tunnel

Carole Woods, LWVDV Treasurer

The IRS has determined that **LWVDV is a 501(c)(3)**. Dues and donations are now tax-deductible. The next step is getting a new certification with the California Secretary of State and our Articles of Incorporation amended. Onward!

*[Editor's Note: Many thanks to our Treasurer, Carole Woods, for all her time on the paperwork involved, and to Tom Carson, former LWVC Treasurer, for his help and advice.]*

## VOTER SERVICE

### Lights! Cameras! Questions!

*Ann Flynn, Sharon Burke, & Gwen Watson, Co-Chairs*

Diablo Valley League has organized 28 Televised Roundtables with 126 candidates for three full days (September 17, 18, & 19) at Contra Costa TV Studios. We'll need timers for the filming, callers to remind candidates, and assistants for League Managers of the Roundtables. Act quickly and you may be able to watch your own local candidates debate!

Members already signed up as Roundtable Timers are: Juliana Boyle, Lori Stevens, Suzan Requa, Carol Sebilis, Audrey Albrecht, Barbara Coenen and Lee Lawrence.

**Helpers needed** for reminder calls to candidates before Sept 17.

Contact: Gwen Watson, Sharon Burke, and Ann Flynn. Each is managing a different day. E-mail [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) or call the League office, 925-283-2235 to leave a message.



**Questions for candidates** will be greatly appreciated! Please send them to [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) or respond via our FaceBook event page (yes, we're on Facebook – see page 7) <https://www.facebook.com/events/514127602055606/>

A schedule of TV showings will be available after the tapings. This will be sent by e-mail or by request to the LWV office, 925-283-2235.

There are also many **live candidate forums** for which LWVDV is providing moderators, including Danville, Orinda, Martinez and Rossmoor. These provide an excellent opportunity to watch veteran LWV moderators in action and consider if you'd be interested in joining us when we offer our next moderator training. If you'd like information on the forums or the moderator training, please contact Gwen.

### **Volunteers Needed for Smart Voter Calls**

Volunteers are needed in September and early October to make reminder calls to candidates about posting their information on Smartvoter.org. (Why would a candidate pass up a chance for free online exposure? Sometimes they just need a nudge – can you help?)

Script provided. You can make calls from home at your convenience. Leave a message for Ashley Coates at the League office, 925-283-2235, if you can help.

## **Pros & Cons: Training Session, Saturday, September 13!**



Pros and Cons training is scheduled for Saturday, September 13, from 2-4 pm in the LWVDV Boardroom.

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to **anyone** interested in becoming a Pros and Cons presenter for the November 2014 election. You will be trained, you will have a partner and you will have a script to work from, so much of the work will be done for you in advance. Please call me or email me if you have an interest in this very important part of our League activities and if you have any questions about this activity. Also, if you can think of someone else who might like to do this, please let me know. It's such a rewarding experience, and since we all should become informed about the ballot initiatives anyway, why not share the fruits of your study with others?

**So, please contact me, Kay James!** Call 925-283-2235 or e-mail [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org).

## **SAVE THE DATE: Pros & Cons LWV Meeting, Saturday, Oct.4 from 3-4:30 pm!**

## **SAVE THE DATE! Last Chance Voter Registration Monday, October 20th, 2014 4-8 pm, Various BART Stations**

We will be registering voters at local BART stations on Monday Oct. 20th, the last possible day to register before the November 4 election. This is a great chance to work with other League members at one of our most important, signature tasks. We will have voter registration application forms and information about how to register on-line at [www.registertovote.gov](http://www.registertovote.gov) In the last Presidential election we registered over 200 people! And it's a lot of fun, with waves of potential voters coming off the trains every 5 minutes or so. You can sign up for one two hour session between 4 and 6 pm, or between 6 and 8 pm, or stay through the whole thing! Call the League office at [925-283-2235](tel:925-283-2235) to volunteer!

## **LWV ACTION**

### **Combat Human Trafficking**

Last month's *Voter* posted the newly developed position of LWVUS on human trafficking. You can help combat human trafficking with support of a locally based organization "Run for Courage" [www.runforcourage.org](http://www.runforcourage.org) Go to the website to see about the group, which supports local efforts against human trafficking.

If we have enough people interested, we could identify a "team" for the 5K (3.0 miles) walk/run to be held at Lake Merritt on Saturday, November 8. Before September 20,



contact Audrey Albrecht [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org), if you would be willing to register and be part of a LWVDV team. (\$30 registration includes T-shirt for the fund-raiser, but participants are also encouraged to gather additional donations for the team total.) We will not set up a team until we know we have several to represent us but there is no maximum on team size (or donations) to the team. This is a LWVDV-supported event, though we are not a sponsor as such.

## Momentum Grows For Action On Global Warming

*Marti Roach, Climate Action Chair*

The National League has signed on as a sponsor to the People's Climate March. World leaders will be in New York City in September for a UN summit on the climate crisis. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon is urging governments to support a global agreement to dramatically reduce pollution causing global warming. Led by [350.org](http://350.org), with hundreds of faith and civic co-sponsors, the 9-21 People's Climate March will be a history-making gathering, raising voices for action to address global warming.

***Join this historic call to action here in the Bay Area!*** There will be a local event to support this national call to action. This family-friendly rally will be held at the Lake Merritt Amphitheatre from 2 -5 pm on September 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a climate fair, with tables for literature and discussion on local efforts addressing the climate crisis. For more information, go to <http://bayareasept21-350bayarea.nationbuilder.com>.

## LWVC Recommends on November Ballot Measures

The LWVC Board has voted to:

- Support Proposition 2, to strengthen the state's rainy day fund
- Support Proposition 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act initiative dealing with sentencing and crime prevention
- Oppose Proposition 43, the water bond measure postponed from 2010 to this ballot (NOTE: this is being re-evaluated due to replacement language for the bond.)

The League has no position on Props 45, 46, and 48.

Read our [Vote with the League](#) flyer and look for other action materials related to the election later this month.

We take stands on ballot measures based on current program [positions](#) and/or on [League Principles](#). Positions are developed based on member [study and consensus](#). How does our board determine when to take action on statewide ballot measures, and on which items? [Learn how we decided to make these recommendations](#).

## **Keep Contra Costa Moving: Tell the Contra Costa Transportation Authority Your Ideas for the Future**

*Sally Germain, LWVDV Transportation Chair*

Our local governments work with the CCTA to make our travel conditions as good as they can be. As the County Transportation Plan undergoes its 2014 five-year update, the Authority wants also to hear from us, the general public. It is time for us to tell them our priorities, needs, ideas for the next twenty-five years. What do you want as a great idea to come? In the recent past we got the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, improvements to Highway 4 to Brentwood, beginnings of the e-BART extension to Antioch. Always there will be more help for local street maintenance, relief to congestion hotspots.

Your opinions and ideas will be gratefully received on transportation issues county-wide. Do you wish for more transit service, trails, bike safety, better pedestrian and school safety coordination?

There are several ways to participate:

- Give your ideas at a public workshop in Central County: attend on September 10, 7:00 PM, in Lafayette Veterans Memorial Building, 3780 Mt, Diablo Boulevard..
- Visit [www/keepcontracostamoving.net](http://www/keepcontracostamoving.net) in order to fill out an online survey.
- Call 925-256-4720 to get a copy of the survey mailed to you, or information on the draft county plan.



Your opinions matter! Your written copies of comments on the 5-year plan are due at CCTA by e-mail by September 30: [2014ctp@ccta](mailto:2014ctp@ccta).

## **Disclose Act Dead for the Year**

Lee Lawrence, who is now on the LWVC Legislative Committee (yay, Lee!) reports that SB 52, the Disclose Act, failed to find a floor manager in the Assembly and is dead for the year. "SEIU and CTA came out in opposition to some of the technical language, and some possibly unconstitutional sections."

## **Back to School Thoughts**



**What's your take on the recent court decision on teacher tenure?** This will be a key topic for candidates for State Superintendent of Schools in November. The League never takes positions on candidates, but if you're interested in non-slogan discussion of this hot topic, Suzan Requa wants to know.

Please email her at [info@lwvdv.org](mailto:info@lwvdv.org) with the subject line of Ed Hot Topics; also let her know if you have an interest in being on the Education Committee or can provide expertise in specific Education topics.

**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).

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS & UPDATES

If your name appears below, then it is time to renew your membership. Please use the form on the back page. If you have already renewed, thank you! (*We send three notices before deleting but remember: expiration date does not change even if payment is later.*)

Audrey Albrecht	Ken Coates	Sandra Moriarty	Arliss Ungar
Kerin Baker	Olga Disney	Gwen Regalia	Gwen Watson
Juliana Boyle	Barbara Hollenbach	Marti Roach	Avon Wilson
Joana Brueckner	Claire Holmsen	Adelia Sabiston	
Ashley Coates	Clara King	Frances Schroder	

**Welcome, new members:** Margaret Banner, Concord



**We're on Facebook!**



**And Twitter!**

Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page. [www.facebook/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Diablo-Valley](http://www.facebook/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Diablo-Valley).

Follow us on Twitter -- @LWVDiabloValley

***Please help us grow our social media network!***

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

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925-283-2235 [www.lwvdv.org](http://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).

### Regional Issues

This issue of the *Bay Area Monitor* features:

- Taking Stock of the Water Supply
- Crude-by-Rail in the Bay Area
- Cap-and-Trade Revenue for Transit
- Monitoring Air Quality Near Roads

Online at [www.bayareamonitor.org](http://www.bayareamonitor.org), the *Bay Area Monitor* is also available free by mail. Check it out!

**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.**



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**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
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** of ALL above enclosed to LWVDV  
*(LWVDV is a 501(c)3 organization. Dues and donations to LWVD are tax-deductible. Tax ID number supplied on request.)*

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. 9 Action Comm.**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Sept. 11 Board Meeting**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Sept. 13 Pros & Cons Training**  
2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Sept. 17 Roundtables**  
**-Sept 19 Taping, all day**  
CCTV, Martinez
- Sept. 20 Inequality for All**  
3-4:30 pm Cedar Room  
Laf. Comm Ctr.
- Sept. 30 Where's the Money**  
7-8:30 pm Lafayette Library  
Community Hall