



MONTHLY MEETINGS

See calendar, back page

SAVE THESE DATES:

Thursday, Oct 9

Followup Discussion on September income inequality meetings (Reich and Piketty) 7 pm, Cedar Room Lafayette Community Center

Monday, Oct 20

Last Chance Voter Registration

Tuesday, Nov 4

Election Day

Saturday, Nov 15

Houses for Homeless? 3-4:30 pm Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center

Saturday, Dec 6

LWV Group Tour Galindo House Concord 3 pm Optional lunch first! Old Spaghetti Factory

***Bonus Saturday Meeting:
Pros and Cons***

**Saturday, October 4
3-4:30 pm**

Cedar Room, Lafayette Community Center
500 St. Mary's Rd, Lafayette

Pros & Cons Chair Kay James teams up with Janet Thomas to give you both sides of the story on all six ballot measures for November.

Always a great program – bring a friend!

***Third Saturday is on Friday this month!
And it's a field trip!***

College Challenges

**Friday, October 17
3 – 4:30 pm**

Oak Room, Cal State East Bay
4700 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Concord
Park in staff parking (stay to right as you enter the campus) and meet at flagpole.

Join us for a special onsite tour of CSUEB Concord Campus guided by Bette Felton, professor emerita of nursing and health science and retired dean of the Concord Campus.

She will be discussing the history, changes and challenges at CSUEB, including the Scholar Olli Program.



LEAGUE LEADER'S LETTER

By Leslie Stewart, LWVDV President

Busy, busy, busy!

That's the Fall election season in an even-numbered year. I hope you've had a chance to participate in some way in all that's been happening.

And if not, it's not too late! Our great team of **Candidate Roundtable** coordinators is now finished with their 3-day marathon, but we continue to provide moderators for **live candidate forums**, 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. See below and pages 3 and 4 for all the details and help us get the word out about Election Previews on the air and online, live forums and Smart Voter/Voter's Edge.

And there's more activity in October! A Pros and Cons presentation especially for LWV members and friends, a field trip to Cal State East Bay, Last Chance Voter Registration (always a favorite) . . . this Voter is full of things to do!

If you attended one (or both) of the September meetings on **income inequality**, you probably want to continue the discussion – and you can, on Thursday, October 9, at 7 pm in the Cedar Room at the Lafayette Community Center. Thanks to Janet Thomas and Carol Murota for setting up this great trio of informative sessions!

Looking ahead, we will hear about some innovative solutions for the homeless in November – thanks, Gwen Watson, for arranging for our speaker. And in December, Carole Woods and Audrey Albrecht have put together plans for us to tour the historic Galindo House in Concord in its holiday finery, with an optional lunch get-together at the Old Spaghetti Factory beforehand. Be sure to mark your calendar for this special "party"!

VOTER SERVICE

Last Chance Voter Registration Monday, October 20th, 2014 2 shifts, 4 pm to 6 pm, 6 pm to 8 pm.

BART stations: Orinda, Lafayette, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, Concord, North Concord/Martinez, Pittsburg/Bay Point

Have an impact! Join League members in Voter Service! Please sign up for a 2 hour session! In 2012 we got 200+ registrations!

To sign up, call the League office and leave a message with your choice of time and BART station at [\(925\) 283-2235](tel:925-283-2235)

LIVE FORUMS

Oct. 2 San Ramon Valley Unified School District School Board

7:00 pm – Iron Horse Middle School Multi-Purpose Room

Moderator: Steve Weir

SRV Council of PTAs, California Women Lead, LWV-DV, co-sponsors

Oct. 7 Orinda City Council

7:00 pm – Orinda Library

Moderator: Sharon Burke

Orinda Association, LWV-DV Co-sponsors

Oct. 7 or 16 Martinez City Council & Mayor

6:30 pm Alhambra High Performing Arts Building

Moderator: Ann Flynn

Martinez Chamber of Commerce, LWV-DV, co-sponsors

Oct. 11 Assembly District 16

9:30 am Shadow Hills Cabana

Moderator: Ann Flynn

AAUW Alamo/Danville, LWV-DV co-sponsors

Oct. 27 Clayton City Council

7:00 pm Clayton Community Library, Hoyer Hall

Moderator: Martha Goralka

AAUW, LWV-DV, co-sponsors

TELEVISED ROUNDTABLES

For three straight days from 8:00 am until 7:00 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, September 17, 18, and 19, the League and its partners CCTV, Bay Area News Group, and the County Elections Department worked nonstop to co-produce 29 televised Roundtables with some 119 candidates, with the potential of reaching 350,000 people in Contra Costa County.



The roundtables covered these races:

Town Councils of Danville and Moraga. City Councils of Orinda, Pleasant Hill, Martinez, Hercules, Antioch, Concord, El Cerrito, Oakley, Clayton, Richmond, Richmond Near Term, and Pittsburg; State Assembly 14 and 16; Unified School Districts of Antioch, Martinez, Mt. Diablo, San Ramon Valley, and West Contra Costa; Contra Costa Board of Ed Areas 2, 4, and 5; U.S. Representative, Congress District 11; West Contra Costa Healthcare Board; West County Wastewater Board; Contra Costa Water Board, District 1; Mayor of Richmond.

The Roundtable Conveners were Ann Flynn, Sharon Burke, and Gwen Watson. Serving several hours as Roundtable Timers were: Lori Stevens, Janet Thomas, Barbara Coenen, Suzan Requa, Juliana Boyle, Carol Sebilis, Lee Lawrence, Sally Germain, Barbara Owens, Ann Flynn, and Gwen Watson.

Tom Barnidge, columnist for the Bay Area News Group, was Moderator of all televised roundtables.

The League has always taken very seriously its role of educating the American voters with unbiased information on where the candidates stand on the issues that are so important in our lives. Twenty years ago we learned that by partnering with CCTV, Elections Department, and

the CC Times, there was the potential of reaching our voter education goals while helping to educate a large audience of County citizens (some 350,000 citizens) through televised forums/roundtables. The LWV Diablo Valley is proud of the 20 years of top-quality roundtable broadcasts that this awesome partnership produces each election season and of the public trust that these shows have engendered.

One morning last week Contra Costa Times subscribers found in Tom Barnidge's column a tribute to our League and our partners with the Roundtable Task Force. I think I speak for everyone when I say, "That made our day!"

Gwen Watson, *Voter Service Chair*

The schedule of replays of the Election Previews can be seen at <http://ca-contracostacounty2.civicplus.com/2118/Election-Preview-Shows> They can be seen online at <http://ca-contracostacounty2.civicplus.com/2118/Election-Preview-Shows>



New Voter's Edge/Smart Voter Pilot Ready for November Election

The League of Women Voters of California Education Fund's SmartVoter.org is partnering with MapLight to bring California a new, comprehensive, nonpartisan online guide to elections called Voter's Edge.

The partnership marries Smart Voter's powerful coverage of election contests and candidates with MapLight's deep expertise in public data and technology. The site will provide:

- An address lookup tool to build individualized ballots and provide the voter's polling place.
- Candidate and ballot measure data down to the local level supplied by Smart Voter; and federal, state and campaign finance data by MapLight.

The new site will be available for the November election. Visit Voter's Edge today. (Smart Voter's website, smartvoter.org, also contains easy links to reach Voter's Edge.)

SmartVoter®

Can you help *Get the Word Out* about Smartvoter.org?

Smartvoter.org is "one stop shopping" to learn about the candidates on your ballot. Many people outside LWV do not know about it!

Could you:

- email/Facebook all your local friends and members of your faith community
- write a letter to the editor of your local paper reminding folks to visit smartvoter.org before they mark their ballots?

- contact a local radio station about their running a PSA?
- take some smartvoter bookmarks to any of these locations:
 - farmers market
 - laundromat
 - the library at DVC or LMC
 - the central library offices for distribution to local libraries
 - a public candidates' night
 - a waiting room at Kaiser?

Do you have other ideas how to let all those folks in Contra Costa County know about Smart Voter? Please contact me for bookmarks and suggested language for publicizing Smart Voter, and let me know what you've done.

Thanks

Ashley Coates (messages can be forwarded from info@lwvdv.org and 925-283-2235)

LWV ADVOCACY

LWVDV Recommendations on Local Ballot Measures for November

The Action Committee of LWVDV reviewed the local measures on the ballot and the Board approved the following endorsements. The League has no position on the other local measures. Please share the LWVDV recommendations with your friends!



LWVDV endorses Measure N in Pittsburg

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley has endorsed the Pittsburg Unified School District's Measure N, a bond measure in support of repairing, modernizing, and upgrading Pittsburg schools. The measure would allow the issuance of \$85 million of bonds, within legal rates and state-approved bonding capacity limits, with independent oversight, no money for administrators' salaries, and all funds staying in the local community. The League of Women Voters supports bond money being spent on capital expenditures, and the district seeks to replace aging roofs, plumbing, heating, ventilation/electrical systems, earthquake safety, fire alarms and school security. It also seeks to provide updated computer technology, upgrade energy systems including solar, upgrading and acquiring classrooms, science/computer labs, and school facilities. Bonds are an appropriate way to finance these improvements. The League of Women Voters historically strongly supports public schools and the education of our children. We recommend a Yes vote on Measure N.

LWVDV endorses Measure O in Antioch

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley has endorsed the City of Antioch's Business License Tax Measure O in the Nov 4, 2014 general election. The city of Antioch has suffered significant loss of income during the recent recession, and needs increased funds to maintain general City services, specifically for police, code enforcement, youth and senior services

programs, and street repairs. The League of Women Voters supports a system of taxation that provides revenue sufficient to meet the changing needs of Antioch residents.

Measure O increases the minimum tax for the existing gross receipts business license tax, and would create a residential landlord business tax. This measure would generate increased revenue from those with business profits in Antioch (\$250 per single family rental home, and \$150 per rental apartment/condominium) and not impose a regressive tax on the general population. The League of Women Voters strongly supports affordable housing. If landlords choose to pass these increases on to tenants, they would add \$20.83 per month to single family home rentals, or \$12.50 to apartments. We urge a Yes vote on Measure O.

LWVDV endorses Measure Q in Concord

The League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley has endorsed Measure Q, the continuation of a ½ cent sales tax that otherwise would expire shortly. This continued tax would automatically expire after 9 years, and would include annual audits, independent citizen oversight, and funds could not be taken by the state. It would maintain Concord's city services, including emergency response, police, gang prevention, city street and pothole repair, senior/youth programs, and other city services. Concord has experienced a 25% reduction in city staff due to the recent recession and loss of revenue. The League of Women Voters supports a system of taxes that provides revenue sufficient to meet the changing needs of Concord residents. We urge a Yes vote on Measure Q.

REVISED -- LWVC Recommends on November Ballot Measures

We **support** two important measures on the November 4 ballot: [Proposition 2](#) and [Proposition 47](#).

The LWVC board carefully considered [Prop 1, the water bond](#), and decided to remain neutral on this measure. Propositions 45, 46, and 48 cover issues the League has not studied and, therefore, we have no recommendations.

Vote YES on [Prop 2, the Rainy Day Fund measure](#), which takes an important step toward fiscal discipline in our state government.

Vote YES on [Prop 47, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act](#), which ensures that prison spending is focused on violent and serious offenses and maximizes alternatives for non-serious, nonviolent crime.



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.

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 & 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.*)

Janet Abrams	Joe Goralka	Bob Hill	Helen Oliver
Aldene Crosswell	Martha Goralka	Veronica Jacknow	Donna Preece
Rachel Dippel	Diane Griffiths	Joan Lautenberger	Annette Schmidt
Joan Field	Anne Hetland	Diane Mader	Susan Thwaites
Judith Garvens	Barbara Hill	Jerri McNair	

Welcome, new members: Marie Kahn, WC; Aase Scholen, Laf.; Sherri McGoff, WC.



We're on Facebook!

Visit us and LIKE our Facebook page. www.facebook/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-of-Diablo-Valley.



And Twitter!

Follow us on Twitter -- @LWVDiabloValley

Please help us grow our social media network!

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Did You Know??

[Eleanor Roosevelt was a member of the Dutchess County, New York League in its earliest days.](#) She chaired the LWVNY legislative committee in 1921 and served on the state League board in 1922. She remained a lifelong supporter of the League in New York.

A wonderful booklet by League member Hilda Waltrous, ***In League with Eleanor***, describes Narcissa Cox Vanderlip, chair of the New York State League, pouring tea for Eleanor Roosevelt whom she then asked to summarize and present the facts of selected legislation for the state League board and members.

LWVUS President Elizabeth MacNamara



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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

- Oct. 4** **Pros & Cons**
 3-4:30 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Oct. 7** **Action Comm.**
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Oct. 9** **Board Meeting**
 2-4 pm [LWVDV Office](#)
- Oct. 9** **Inequality Discussion**
 7 pm
 Cedar Room, Laf. Community Center
- Oct. 17** **College Today**
 3-4:30 pm Oak Room
 Cal State East Bay
- Oct. 20** **Last Chance Voter Registration**
 4-8 pm BART stations