



LWVUS Education Study

Thursday, November 10, 2011, 4–5:30 p.m.

County Office of Education, [77 Santa Barbara Road](#), Pleasant Hill

The building is on Oak Park Boulevard next to the Central Library. We will meet in the John Muir room on the second floor. Contact Anita Johnson at 946-9621 for more information.

LWVC Initiative and Referendum Update Study

Thursday, November 17, 2011, 2–4 p.m.

[LWVDV Office](#)

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

The League of Women Voters of California (LWVC) adopted a position on the initiative and referendum (IR) process in 1984 and updated it in 1999. This year, LWVC decided to conduct another update study. Please join us for this first meeting on this important topic.

LWVDV Holiday Party

Sunday, December 11, 2011, Noon–2 p.m

[Stanley Dollar Clubhouse](#)

1015 Stanley Dollar Drive, Rossmoor, Walnut Creek, CA

Please bring a dish to share. Beverages will be provided.





THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Lee Lawrence, President

"Connecting": definitions include "to fasten, tie, join together"; "to establish a relationship"; "to awaken meaningful emotions, establish rapport." Connecting happens within the League among its members when we create working teams and form lasting friendships. It also happens between the League and the community when we provide education, service, and well-researched information. This last month involved a lot of connecting, all making it possible to do our League work now and in the future.

Our big event was our October 15 Celebration of 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote in California, which was also an opportunity to meet our elected officials. This was a chance to connect with our past and with our future: see the article on [page 6](#) of the *VOTER*.

We have co-sponsored recent events with the AAUW: a candidates' debate in San Ramon moderated by Sharon Burke (with the Walnut Creek/Danville/Alamo/San Ramon American Association of University Women, the AAUW) and a Kickoff for our state Initiative and Referendum Study featuring a presentation by LWV of California's Vice President for Advocacy, Helen Hutchison, with the AAUW of Orinda/Moraga/Lafayette.

And we have reached out to the United Latino Voices group emerging throughout Contra Costa County. Connecting leads to future partnering, future alliances.

We are eager to help you find ways to connect with the League. The most efficient way is to send in the new Interest Survey that we sent with your new Membership Directory. You can mail or fax it in to us at (925) 283-2235 and we will follow up with you.

We also are eager to have member volunteers filling our open Item Chair positions, which include Energy, Gun Violence Prevention, International Relations, Immigration, Juvenile Justice, Public Library, Reproductive Rights, and State and Local Finance. We are seeking more members of our Observers Corps, volunteer League members who will monitor city council or school board meetings in your town at least once every quarter. We are just starting our state update study of the initiative and referendum process in California. We also have short-term tasks for those with busy schedules.

We look forward to connecting with you through the holidays: please join us for our annual Holiday Party—food, wine, holiday cheer, and a chance to connect with old friends and to make new ones. We look forward to seeing you all! Best wishes for a lovely Thanksgiving and holiday season!

Lee Helena Lawrence, President

INTRODUCTION TO THE LEAGUE: Finance

By Carole Woods, Treasurer



Where Do My Dues Go? Like most national organizations, the bulk of your dues are sent along up the ladder—in our case to the LWV of the Bay Area (LWVBA), the LWV of California (LWVC), and the LWV of the United States (LWVUS). The last time we had to raise the dues and also charge for a printed copy of *The Voter* was because we were actually losing money on membership.

Here's an example: Susan Member pays her \$65 dues to the LWVDV: \$30 goes to LWVUS, \$23 to LWVC, and \$1 to LWVBA, for a total of \$54. That leaves the LWVDV with \$11...not much money. Our major sources of income are from donations, the Contra Costa County contract for providing voter registration forms throughout the county, and rent paid by Lafayette Moraga Youth Activity so our portion of the rent is less.

Our Bank Accounts: LWVDV has two accounts:

- Our **Ed Fund** account is designated by the IRS as a 501(c)(3), so donations to that account are tax deductible. The checks made out to LWVC-EF are sent directly to Sacramento to what I like to call our savings account. This account is restricted; we have to apply to have our funds released back to us, and the LWVC-EF charges us a fee for managing the account.
- The other account is our **checking** account. Checks made out to LWVDV for dues or donations go into this account. This unrestricted account is what pays the bills: rent, phone, the *Voter*—all the regular operating and program costs. Donations made to this account are not tax deductible because this is designated a 501(c)(4) account. In the future this may change because our chapter doesn't actually do lobbying. Dues have to be made out to the LWVDV because we have to make payments from the checking account for LWVBA, LWVC, and LWVUS per member payments.

Donations are welcome to either account. The advantage of the Ed Fund account is that your donation is tax deductible. The advantage of donations to the LWVDV is that we can easily pay the bills and conduct programs. If you [donate online](#), you can use Pay Pal to make a donation to either account, and you don't have to have a Pay Pal account.

Leaving a Legacy. Including the LWV of Diablo Valley or the LWV of Diablo Valley Education Fund in your will is among the easiest ways to offer support of our work for years to come. If you already have a will, you can have your attorney add a codicil to include our League. Please use the following language to include the League as a beneficiary of a will or trust:

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the {League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley} {League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley Education Fund}, a charitable organization, with offices at 500 St. Mary's Road, #14, Lafayette, CA 94549, {the sum of \$____ } {____ percentage of my residuary estate}."

STAFF THE OFFICE ON ELECTION DAY

By Sharon Burke, Vice President of Voters Service

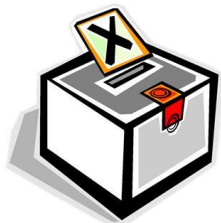


The Elections Office has asked LWVDV if we would be staffing our office on Monday, November 7, and Tuesday, November 8, Election Day. Although it is a very small election, because there is an election in Lafayette and many Lafayette voters are very familiar with the League's presence in Lafayette, we would like to stay open those two days to answer questions from voters. Typical questions are: Where is my polling place? Is it too late to vote absentee? Can I get a ride to the polls? What is the League's position on measure ___?

I am looking for volunteers willing to spend two-hour shifts in the Lafayette LWV office on St. Mary's Road on Monday or Tuesday. You will be answering the phone or helping walk-in visitors. On Monday shifts will be 9–11 a.m., 11 a.m.–1 p.m., 1–3 p.m., and 3–5 p.m. On Tuesday, shifts will be the same, except we will staff until 6 p.m. on Tuesday, so the final shift will be 3–6 p.m.

I promise to supply homemade cookies for sustenance AND a very detailed Frequently Asked Questions information sheet to help you answer questions from voters. You will sound very informed because you will be very informed! I was so confident that League volunteers would be willing to help us out that the Elections Office listed our contact info and office open hours in the press release they just sent out about the election. So come on, everyone, help me out. Please contact me at if you can take one or two shifts. Thanks a lot!

ADOPT A POLL



In the past Phyllis Ceaser has led our League members in staffing a poll for voters at our office. As this is a local election in Lafayette only, we will be joining with others at a poll away from the office, with Joan Lautenberger, Phyllis Ceaser, Annabelle Cloner, Larry Fielder, Jean Kitchens, Joan Lautenberger, Cathy Sherwood, and Carole Woods serving as election clerks.

ELECTRONIC PRIVACY

In the interest of maintaining our privacy, new member contact information and board/chair email addresses will still be published in the *Voter*, but will be deleted in the version that is posted on the website.

LEAGUE SPONSORS WELL-ATTENDED CANDIDATES' NIGHT FOR SAN RAMON CITY COUNCIL AND MAYORAL RACES

By Sharon Burke, Vice President of Voters Service

On October 6, LWVDV co-sponsored a well-attended candidates' night at the San Ramon Community Center. Three candidates for two city council positions answered voters' questions for an hour, followed by an hour with the two candidates for San Ramon mayor. Unlike most Contra Costa cities, which rotate the mayor's position among city council members, San Ramon has a separately elected mayor.

Candidates for City Council are Scott Perkins, incumbent; Phil O'Loane, challenger; and Abram Wilson, who is currently the San Ramon mayor but is not allowed to seek the mayor's office again due to term limits. These candidates answered questions on Measure W, a failed ballot measure in San Ramon involving development of the Tassajara Valley; public comment time at city council meetings; the timing of San Ramon city elections; city budgets; and other city issues. Candidates for San Ramon mayor are Carol Rowley and Bill Clarkson. They received similar questions on city finances, sustainability initiatives by the city, growth management, and the stalled City Center project.

Co-sponsors of the debate with the League were the San Ramon American Association of University Women, Dublin-San Ramon Women's Club, and San Ramon Chamber of Commerce. Thanks to Lee Lawrence, Jeanne Melaugh, Sally Germain, and Nancy Vandell from the League who attended and volunteered at the candidates' night. I served as moderator.

The League's list of moderators has dwindled over the years, and we need to train a new crop of volunteers. I have found it to be a very useful skill to have, and I would highly recommend that if you are at all interested that you attend training. I would be willing to train new moderators to moderate candidates' nights sponsored by the League. Please contact me if you are interested in being trained as a League moderator.

WWW.LWVDV.ORG

If you haven't ever visited our website or haven't visited in a while, please find an opportunity to do so. The front (or home) page now has our most important news. At present that includes a link to our recommendations on the measures in the upcoming Lafayette and Pittsburg elections. Send a [link](#) to a friend to "Vote with the League."



There has been some reorganization of the website, so please take a few minutes to explore. Most notable is the addition of the "Contact Your Elected Officials" webpage. It includes links to all of the cities in our area and their governing bodies. There is also a link to a newly produced PDF manual with the same title that has names, phone numbers, mailing addresses, email addresses, and website links to each of our locally elected officials.

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE IN CA

By Lee Lawrence, President



Our big event was our October 15 Celebration of 100 Years of Women's Right to Vote in California, which was also a chance to meet our elected officials. We shared food and wine, singing, making signs, and a march around the church grounds in honor of our suffragist foremothers. Assemblymember Joan Buchanan and Danville Town Council member Newell Arnerich attended, each honoring the League of Women Voters for its voter service, moderation of candidate debates, and clear recommendations about ballot measures. Arnerich was also the architect who designed the new Bortin Fellowship Hall at the Mt. Diablo Unitarian Universalist Church where the event was held. Staff from Senator Mark deSaulnier's office and from Assemblymember Susan Bonilla's office attended the event. We also heard from Carlyn Obringer, chair of the Contra Costa Women's Commission, and Reverend Leslie Takahashi-Morris.

It was very moving to see past League presidents: Alice Johnson, Joan Lautenberger, Martha Goralka, Gwen Watson, and Ashley Coates were in attendance. A tip of the hat to Martha Goralka, who had arranged for Beverly Lane and two re-enactors to engage us in the history of suffrage in California. They did an excellent job of bringing to life the struggle for voting rights.

The referendum passed October 10, 1911, by 3500 votes statewide (a margin of 1 vote per precinct) and by 22 votes in Contra Costa County. Our Vice President, Jeanne Melaugh, had copies made of portraits of suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, and Carrie Chapman Catt with brief biographies for display. These were so impressive that Beverly Lane asked to borrow them to display at the Contra Costa Historical Society in Martinez until November 18. Finally we discussed the impact of women's votes, which are key supports for Social Security, Medicare, maternal health and early childhood education programs, and consumer protection legislation, including the Food and Drug Administration.



To support our newsletter and other activities, please donate online by clicking on this button or visiting our website at <http://www.lwvdv.org>.

**The League of Women Voters
of Diablo Valley Voter**
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925-283-2235 www.lwvdv.org
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Acting Associate Editor: Lee Lawrence
Email delivery is free, but delivery by U.S. mail is \$10/year.
Current/past issues are posted on our [website](#).

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!

- | | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Karrie Connors | Julie Germain | Guyla Ponomareff | Sherry Sterrett |
| Clayton Englar | Miriam Glickman | Alpha Quincy | Janet Thomas |
| Robert Fisher | Rachel Irelan | Sharon and Don Ritchey | Nancy Vandell |
| J. Foxall | Elsa Ludwig | Patricia Snyder | |
| Trudi Gardner | Susan Phalen | Linda Soliven | |

The website address of the LWV of the Bay Area is listed incorrectly in the Directory. Please correct it to: www.lwvbayarea.org.

- SAVE THE DATE -

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
Housing and the Bay Area's Future

Saturday, February 4, 2012, 9 a.m.–2 p.m.
[MetroCenter](#), 101 Eighth Street, Oakland, CA
One Block from Lake Merritt BART Station

Presented by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area

Cost: In advance, \$30 (\$15 without lunch); at the door, \$35 (\$20 without lunch). To register, please write a check payable to "LWVBA." Include your name and the name of any guest, and mail to LWVBA, 1611 Telegraph Avenue, Suite 300, Oakland, CA 94612. Registration is also available online through January 27 via PayPal at www.lwvbayarea.org. Make every effort to attend this timely subject. The court will be deciding the question of redevelopment agencies in a few weeks, before this meeting.



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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 ___
 \$ _____ 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

Nov. 1 2 p.m.	Action Committee LWVDV Office
Nov. 8 3 p.m.	Board Meeting LWVDV Office
Nov. 10 4-6 p.m.	Education Study Meeting 77 Santa Barbara Road Pleasant Hill
Nov. 17 2-4 p.m.	IR Update Study Meeting LWVDV Office
Dec. 6 2 p.m.	Action Committee LWVDV Office
Dec. 11 12-2 pm	LWVDV Holiday Party 1015 Stanley Dollar Dr. Walnut Creek, CA
Dec. 13 3 p.m.	Board Meeting LWVDV Office
Jan. 3 3 p.m.	Action Committee LWVDV Office
Jan. 10 3 p.m.	Board Meeting LWVDV Office