



VOTER

REMINDER

League Annual Meeting

June 11 (Saturday)

10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Castro Valley Library
3600 Norbridge Avenue

UPDATE ON JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Speakers:

David Muhammad
Alameda County
Chief Probation Officer

Paula Barber
Executive Director
Center for Family Counseling

Please RSVP to:

suzbarba@comcast.net

510-538-9678

Please bring the Annual Meeting Kit (May VOTER) that contains the information on which we will be taking action at the meeting.

REDISTRICTING—A WORK IN PROGRESS—WHAT’S NEXT?

The Citizen’s Redistricting Commission (CRC) has conducted 34 public hearing around the state—they held one in Oakland on May 24 and took testimony from many diverse groups.

Meetings were videotaped and can be accessed at <http://wedrawthelines.ca.gov/>. The CRC will draw the political boundaries for all state districts. Maps are due August 15.

In 2008, voters passed the *Voters First Act* and transferred the responsibility for drawing political boundaries for the state senate, assembly and Board of Equalization from the state Legislature to a newly formed Citizens Redistricting Commission.

In 2010, voters passed the *Voters First for Congress Act*, adding congressional districts to the CRC’s responsibilities.

Redistricting at the local level

However, the CRC is not responsible for local redistricting which includes the board of supervisors, some city councils, school boards, community colleges and governing boards of special districts.

The Board of Supervisors has established a redistricting ad-hoc committee to oversee the redistricting process. Individuals and/or community groups are encouraged to participate in the redistricting process.

A series of public hearings will be held throughout the county where various redistricting alternatives will be reviewed and public input sought. These public hearings, with at least one to be held in each of the current five districts, will be conducted through June 10.

- **A public hearing, June 1 from 6-8 p.m., Hayward City Hall to discuss redistricting, hosted by Supervisor Nadia Lockyer.**
- **A public hearing, June 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the San Lorenzo Village Homes Association Hall, hosted by Supervisors Wilma Chan & Nate Miley.**

(continued page 3)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

April 30, 2011

Last weekend I attended the State League Convention in Ventura, with fellow delegate Suzanne Barba. Our League received an award for recognition for achieving 15% net growth between 02/01/2009 and 01/31/2010, but the State has set a challenge for all Leagues: 100 Net new members in 2011-12. Put those brochures in your purse, you'll need them.

I attended two workshops during the weekend. One on "*Demographics and Audience: Who Are You Trying to Reach?*" provided by incoming State President Jenny Waggoner and Communications Manager Elizabeth Leslie. They provided tips on: (1) Targeting your audience demographics; (2) how to market League events using Social Networks, community calendars, etc.; and (3) how to create programs for target audiences.

The other was "*Sustainable Communities Strategies - SB 375*" provided by Linda Craig, Climate Change Program Director, and members of the Ventura City Council and Board of Supervisors. Senate Bill 375 is designed to reduce Green house gases. The panelists discussed the Bill, the steps taken by Ventura and how the League could support implementation locally.

I also attended three Caucuses on "non recommended issue items" which were presented to the Convention for adoption by concurrence. Concurrence is where members are asked to agree with a statement or position, as written, held by another League or recommended by a Board or study committee. One was on Criminal Justice - to create a League position on Criminal Justice based on studies completed by the states of Delaware and Wisconsin; another was an amendment to the State League's Juvenile Justice position which added

language placing greater emphasis on diversion and rehabilitation because juvenile maturity development is still in a formative stage. The final caucus was on Election Systems. The League's that proposed the amendment to the current League position suggested the convention accept language around "proportional representation" and to support election systems for "other single seat offices" in addition to executive offices.

The delegates attended the caucuses and heard pro and con arguments throughout the weekend. Delegates voted Sunday not to adopt the Criminal Justice position or the addition of "proportional representation" to the Election Systems position. Delegates did adopt the amendments to the Juvenile Justice position and approved the amendment to the Election Systems position to include "other single seat offices." I have information available on all of the issues up for vote if you are interested.

The State Board provided a report of all the planning meetings held throughout the State and asked the delegates to reaffirm all current positions in Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. They did recommend that an update study be done on the Initiative and Referendum position for the next two years.

All in all the Convention was informative, educational, and I came away with ideas about marketing our League programs; ideas about new program opportunities; and the understanding that there is always plenty to work on whether it's Health Care, Criminal Justice, Election Systems, or Water policies. I also learned that there is a lot of information and resources at our fingertips. I hope in 2013 that more Board and general members will be interested in attending.

Respectfully,
Linda Slater, President

Redistricting to Bring Change to Bay Area Political Landscape

(The following is an excerpt from a column by Lisa Vordebrueggen, Contra Costa Times, 3-11-11)

The Bay Area will likely lose legislative seats to faster-growing inland regions after its population in the past decade failed to keep pace with its eastern neighbors. The populations of the districts of nearly every Bay Area member of Congress, state Senate and Assembly fell short in census data released this week.

"An incumbent congressman or -woman in the Bay Area is probably going to lose a seat," said Tony Quinn, co-founder of the California Target Book, the state's bible for political analysis. "The Bay Area (population) is about a half a district short, and the patterns are similar for the Assembly and the Senate."

Under-populated districts must expand in order to comply with new, equal population targets for each of the state's 53 congressional, 80 Assembly and 40 Senate seats. That means the Bay Area will likely have bigger but fewer districts.

In 2001, redistricting was a political matter solved largely behind closed doors for the benefit of incumbents. Democrats and Republicans cut a deal and drew safe districts for both sides.

Angry voters subsequently stripped lawmakers of the job and assigned the task to a 14-member redistricting commission comprised of an equal number of Democrats and Republicans plus a few nonpartisans and third-party members.

The panel cannot consider incumbents' home addresses and political party registration. Acceptable criteria include city and county boundaries, geographic features and communities of interest such as a neighborhood or minority population. The plan must comply with federal voting rights law or risk Department of Justice invalidation.



Unlike previous redistricting efforts in which legislators privately lobbied party leaders for more favorable lines, the panel's process forces everyone into public hearings.

Minority advocacy groups such as the Asian Pacific American Legal Center and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund have formed a coalition focused on preserving and improving their representation. Federal law prohibits the drawing of political boundaries designed to dilute minority political clout.

Local Redistricting – (continued from page 1)

The public may provide input, including district map proposals, to the Supervisorial Ad-Hoc Committee, for consideration, and review by the County Community Development Agency. The deadline for submittal of proposals is June 10.

On June 13, the ad-hoc redistricting committee will advise the full Board and the public regarding the submitted proposals. The final redistricting plan is scheduled to be adopted by the Board on July 12, with the second reading to be held on July 26.

In establishing the boundaries of the districts, State law and the Alameda County Charter state that the Board may give consideration to the following factors: topography, geography, cohesiveness, contiguity, integrity, compactness of territory, and community of interests of the districts.

For more information go to www.acgov.org/redistricting/districts to see supervisorial district maps. To get information about how other local elected boards are addressing their redistricting, you should contact the administrative offices of that agency or representative from that local elected board.

LOCAL LWVEA “LIGHTS”

Congratulations to League member and San Leandro Mayor Emeritus **Shelia Young** who recently was awarded the first Honorary Leadership San Leandro Graduate Certificate for “her many years of leadership support and serving as a role model who exemplifies what Leadership is—through think and thin.” The award is given in the memory of Luster Knight, a fallen San Leandro hero.

A “pat on the back” to the LWVEA which was recognized as one of eight Champions of Democracy 2011 by FairVote for the work done in educating the public about Ranked Choice Voting in San Leandro. FairVote is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization devoted to fair elections that respect every vote and every voice.

Congratulations to League member **JoAnn Smith Ainsworth** on the publication of her new book--first of a three-book series--called *Expect Trouble*. JoAnn writes paranormal suspense novels. We're glad she squeezes in time to also assist the League.

Also kudos to long-time League member **Liz Bathgate** and her husband Bob for donating their time to helping paint a mural on a huge exterior wall near the railroad tracks in Hayward. The beautiful mural covers the formerly graffiti covered space and is now “eye-candy” instead of a neighborhood “eyesore.”



GETTING TO KNOW NEW MEMBERS

Tehmina Naqvi -Tehmina is an office assistant for optometrist and League member Jennifer Ong. She credits her boss, Dr. Ong, and her husband Sarmad for steering her toward political action and eventually, membership in the League. Tehmina is a native of Pakistan, came to this country as a child and grew up in San Francisco. She received an AA degree from San Francisco City College in criminal justice. Her initial plan was to follow her uncle's footsteps and become a police officer. In 2007 she married Sarmad and moved to San Leandro and with his encouragement, she attended Chamber and political events. At one of these events, she met Dr. Ong who hired her as an office assistant and got her interested in joining the League.

Tehmina would like to help the League expand its reach through social networks. She said she would like to help educate other women about what the League does and how they can make a difference on issues that interest them.

Cimberly Eng-Tamura - For Cimberly, involvement in politics is an important part of life. “I grew up in a political family,” she explained. Her father, Raymond L. Eng, was the first Asian-American elected to a major city office in the U.S., and served 18 years as city councilman and vice-mayor of Oakland. Politics was common dinner-table conversation. “My father wanted us to give back to the community,” she said. We all worked for candidates.”

Cimberly, a fourth-generation Californian, helped Jean Quan, now Oakland mayor, with fundraising and walking precincts for two years. She also worked on mayoral campaigns in San Leandro, where she lives. She was appointed to the city Senior Commission, and has been elected president of the San Francisco Optimists Club.

A retired teacher and administrator for the New Haven Unified School District, she hopes to get more involved in the League in the future. She already jumped in by helping with the annual program planning meeting and round table discussions on selected issues for the League to emphasize via education and/or advocacy.

Connie Rusk

A BAY AREA PLAN

In 2008, SB 375 (Steinberg) was enacted. The state law requires that our Regional Transportation Plan contain a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that integrates land-use planning and transportation planning.

For the 25-year period covered by Plan Bay Area, the SCS must identify areas within the nine-county Bay Area sufficient to house all of the region's population, including all economic segments of the population. It must also attempt to coordinate the resulting land-use pattern with the transportation network so as to reduce per capita greenhouse-gas emissions from personal-use vehicles.

Four agencies are "collaborating at an unprecedented level." These agencies— Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC), the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD), and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)--are working with their "equal partners" in the nine counties and 101 cities and towns in the region.

The initial scenario (743,000 households) accommodates 97 percent of new households within the existing urban footprint. Only 3 percent of the forecasted new homes require "Greenfield development."

Among counties, three take the lion's share of growth: Santa Clara, Alameda and Contra Costa. These same counties also are anticipated to take the majority of the region's job growth. Thirty-two percent of the forecast and proposed housing growth occurs in San Jose, San Francisco and Oakland. Seventeen percent goes to medium-sized cities like Fremont, Santa Rosa, Berkeley, Hayward, Concord and Santa Clara.

The initial scenario is a basis for discussion with local governments, stakeholders, and the general public about how the Bay Area can accommodate all its population growth over the next 25 years. Comments from the public will assist ABAG and MTC in developing and testing a range of detailed scenarios that achieve the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

This is an opportunity for every local League to get involved, help educate the public, and monitor the planning process.

For more information see http://www.onebayarea.org/plan_bay_area/
Another interesting and helpful site is: <http://www.youchoosebayarea.org/>

AIR QUALITY GUIDELINES

Local Leagues have an opportunity to monitor local land use plans and projects, especially infill and affordable housing projects, to assure that people living and working there will have a healthful environment. This is because new voluntary Air Quality Guidelines are available.

Recently, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District updated its CEQA Air Quality Guidelines to respond to new federal and state air pollution standards and to add additional air pollutants not previously addressed. The Guidelines aid planners and decision makers in developing projects and plans that comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

An important part of the Guidelines is the Thresholds of Significance, which state the amount of each pollutant that can be emitted by a project or plan without being termed "significant." A plan or project with significant adverse impacts must go through the CEQA process, which includes preparing an Environmental Impact Report that includes mitigation of those impacts.

The Air District has conducted a neighborhood-by-neighborhood evaluation of the levels of toxic air contaminants, especially diesel soot, and has identified communities and neighborhoods with unhealthy levels of air toxics.

Consequently, the risks and hazards of air toxics are included in the Thresholds of Significance of the Guidelines. Nearly every city and town has heavily traveled freeways and thoroughfares and industries that emit air toxics. Also included are reductions in greenhouse gas emissions that reflect the requirements of AB 32. *Linda Craig, LWVBA*

League Continues Clean Air Defense Project

The LWVUS's work this past month defending the Clean Air Act and holding Senator Scott Brown (R-MA) and Senator Claire McCaskill (D-MO) accountable for their votes to block new air pollution standards has received significant visibility. The *New York Times* published [a story](#) noting the impact our accountability ads have had on this vital issue. "League leaders were motivated by what they perceived as a shift from treating air pollution as a health threat to one based more on the economic impact of new rules." The [accountability ads](#), which aired for two weeks in early May, called on both Senators to "protect the people, not the polluters." This effort has made an impact on this vital public health issue and raised the importance of protecting clean air.

Elizabeth McNamara, LWVUS President

LET'S PARTY FOR A GOOD CAUSE

by Rene Besold



We all know how devastating the budget cuts have been on schools, libraries and literacy programs, but I don't know how many of

you know that the Hayward Library has a wonderful **After School Homework Support Center** which is also in peril.

To ensure the continuance of that valuable program, the Hayward Public Library and the City of Hayward are sponsoring a fundraising event at the Hayward City Hall Rotunda on June 8 (Wednesday) from 5 to 8:30 p.m.

Participants will be able to sample wines from over 40 wineries and taste food from the area's best restaurants, caterers and retailers. There will also be a silent auction, raffle and door prizes.

The cost is \$30 in advance or \$40 at the door. For ticket information, contact Jack Papazian at 510-828-7459.



SMART VOTER

The SmartVoter team thanked the LWVEA Board for its generous donation of \$1,000 to www.SmartVoter.org. The signature program of the LWVC Education Fund.

This unique public service provides free Web space to all California candidates, which helps candidates inform voters about their qualifications and positions. In addition, it provides a comprehensive and unbiased Web site for voters, with well-organized information on candidates and ballot measures.

SmartVoter.org relies on financial support from county registrars and city clerks as well as donations from local Leagues and individuals. Funding for SmartVoter.org does not come from that portion of member dues paid to LWVC.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR THE LEAGUE'S EASY VOTER GUIDE

During convention this May, attendees were warned that free copies of the League's highly respected Easy Voter Guide (EVG) might not be available next election cycle. We were told that an electronic copy would be available online, but that Leagues may have to print versions to distribute.

Apparently the LWVC Education Fund did not secure funding from its long-time partner for the EVG and consequently did not put it in its budget for 2011-12. Our League consistently distributes approximately 5,000 copies of the EVG to libraries, at pro and con events and to residents upon request. EVGs were also available in other languages.

LWVC UPDATE ON FEDERAL ROLE IN EDUCATION STUDY

The United States has changed dramatically since the early debates on the role of public schools and the role of the federal government in supporting and sustaining them. The importance of education for the common good has shifted from primarily local control to state and national control, with national attention from the Federal government and national organizations.

Congress is currently embroiled in a debate and stalemate over the reauthorization of ESEA. Major issues include the purpose and role of the federal government in education, funding, and the extent to which the federal government should play a role in public education. Areas for national debate involve school choice, accountability, teacher quality, goals, standards and above all, funding. Federal funding currently averages about 10 percent of local school budgets.

During the coming year, local and state Leagues across the United States will discuss the role of the federal government in public education with the goal of coming to consensus on a number of questions. If you are interested in working on this study, contact Linda Slater at slaterl@sbcglobal.net

AFFORDABLE CARE ACT ANNIVERSARY OVERVIEW

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law. This law creates a new reformed marketplace for private insurance, and offers tax credits and subsidies to ensure that coverage is affordable. The new marketplace will enforce strong rules for insurance companies, so they can't deny care or charge more for women or people with pre-existing conditions.

Complete reform will take time to implement. In the meantime, important consumer protections have already started to take effect:

- Insurers can no longer drop your coverage when you get sick.
- Young adults can obtain coverage on parents' plans until age 26.
- Insurers cannot place arbitrary caps on the amount of coverage you can receive over your lifetime.
- Insurers must spend at least 80 percent of your premium dollars on health care.
- Seniors who hit the Medicare "donut hole" coverage gap are receiving a 50 percent discount on brand name drugs.

- Individuals with pre-existing conditions that make them uninsurable may be eligible for the new Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan.
- Preventive care in Medicare and most private plans will be provided without any cost-sharing.
- Small businesses are receiving tax credits to help them provide health insurance to workers.
- Employers are obtaining financial help for maintaining retiree health benefits.

According to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, it is estimated that the Affordable Care Act will provide coverage to 94% of all Americans – expanding coverage to more than 32 million Americans who would otherwise remain uninsured and protecting the health benefits of millions more.

HELP STILL NEEDED

Our League has many volunteers who service our 70 sites—libraries, post office, businesses, governmental agencies—in our Eden Area, but we could use more help and more sites. Servicing means the volunteers check with the site, either by visit or phone call, to see if they have an adequate supply of voter registration forms. If they don't the volunteer delivers the forms to the site. If you are interested in this easy but important volunteer work, please contact Doris at OWLv7@aol.com. Thanks.

GREEN TIP

Make your own household cleaners. Basic ingredients clean and disinfect while being easy on the Bay and your family.

- Lemon removes greasy fingerprints on windows.
- Toothpaste cleans silver (but not gel)
- Salt can remove red wine stains
- White distilled vinegar, diluted in water, is a good all-purpose cleaner.

Visit www.ebmud.com or www.baywise.org for simple ways to clean every room of your home while keeping the Bay and your family's health in mind.

League of Women Voters of Eden Area
 P. O. Box 2234 – Castro Valley, CA 94546 • 510/538-9678
 Representing cities of Hayward and San Leandro
 and unincorporated areas of Ashland, Castro Valley,
 Cherryland, Fairview, Hillcrest Knolls and San Lorenzo

**IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE
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*The League of Women Voters, a
 nonpartisan political organization,
 encourages the informed and active
 participation of the public in
 government and influences public
 policy through education and advocacy.*

CALENDAR

DATE & TIME	EVENT	PLACE
June 1 6-8 p.m.	Public Hearing on BoS Redistricting (see page 1)	Hayward City Hall 777 B Street, Hayward
June 2 6:30 p.m.	Public Hearing on BoS Redistricting (see page 1)	San Lorenzo Village Homes Association Hall
June 8 5-8:30 p.m.	Hayward Library Fundraiser for After School Homework Support Ctr.	Hayward City Hall 777 B Street, Hayward
June 11 10-12:30	LWVEA Annual Meeting & Update on Juvenile Justice System	Castro Valley Library 3600 Norbridge Ave.
June 25 9-Noon	LWV Alameda County Council Meeting of reps from 7 AC Leagues	Nate Miley's Conf. Room 20993 Redwood Rd., C.V.
July 23 9:30-1:30 p.m.	LWVEA Board Retreat Discuss plans for 2011-2012	Barba Home 5787 Highwood Rd., C.V.

**Please visit our website for information—
www.lwvea.org**