



League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER



September 2016

<http://www.lwvbenicia.org>

The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and action.

Upcoming Calendar

Sept. 27, National Voter Registration Day

Sept. 29, Thursday, 6:30—8:30pm, Benicia Meet and Greet Candidates for City Council and Mayor

Sept. 15, Thursday, 4-8 pm, Farmer's Market Voter Registration

Sept. 22, Thursday, 4-8pm, Farmer's Market Voter Registration

Oct. 17, Monday, 6-8:45 pm, Benicia City Library LWVB Regional Candidates Forum

Nov. 5, Saturday morning, Open Government Local Candidates Forum

Nov. 8, General Election Day

Benicia Mayoral and City Council Races Meet & Greet

On Thursday Sept. 29th you will have the opportunity to meet and chat with the candidates for Benicia City council and Mayoral races. The event will be in the Doña Benicia room at the Benicia City Library on L St from 7-8:30. We will open this event to the community and are looking for volunteers to help with bringing nibbles and passing food as well as set-up and staffing the league table. Please contact Susan Neuhaus at lwvneuhaus@gmail.com or 707-373-6879 for how you can help.

National Voter Registration Day Tuesday, Sept 27th

The LWVB is going to participate in the day of nationwide voter registration for the second year in a row. Last year we were in libraries and the community colleges. In 2016 we have had the opportunity to register over 500 youth in schools in the spring so instead we decided on a totally different venue to try and find unregistered voters. Pat Pepin has arranged for us to register voters at the Vallejo Ferry Terminal. We are going to hit the commute hours, early morning is pretty well covered, let us know if you can help in the late afternoon shift. Contact Susan Neuhaus lwvneuhaus@gmail.com or 707 373 6879

President's Message

Welcome back from summer break! Your board and committees have been busy planning all kind of activities for you. It's the beginning of the election season, and boy, do we have a lot going on! There are all kinds of opportunities for you to be involved. We have voter registration at the Farmer's Market, National Voter Registration Day, our Meet and Greet of Benicia City Council, our Regional/State Candidates Forum' and the county Nationalization Ceremony. (See the calendar for dates and times.) We can use all your help in supporting these events. Contact Susan Neuhaus at svmcgee@sbcglobal.net or Gayle at vonwindgayle@gmail.com if you can volunteer for any of these.



The board retreat in July resulted in good organizational structure of the League this year as well as changes in the bylaws: noncitizens and people aged 16 can now join the League. We are considering changing our name from LWV Benicia to LWV South Solano County because of our recent and continuing involvement with Vallejo and Fairfield. There will be more about this throughout the year, ending in a vote at our membership meeting in May.

As has been our habit over the last several years, we continue to seek people to be on our Nominating Committee, whose job is to solicit people to join the board and become officers. This is essential if the LWV Benicia is to continue in the years to come. Please consider volunteering for this committee. If you are interested or want more information, contact me at vonwindgayle@gmail.com.

The Board also approved participation in a new fundraising mechanism for our local League, as part of a pilot program with the LWV CA. They will mail out funding requests to our members, where you can select to donate directly to our own League or to the state League. More money will come to us if you donate directly, but either way we still will receive funding to carry out our important work. So watch your mail this fall!

Lastly, the board decided to meet every other month so that, as individuals, we are freed up to be more active on committees such as Voter Services, Program Events, Membership, and Fundraising. The board will meet in September, November, January, March, and May.

I wish you a wonderful autumn and hope you will engage with the League about the very important November election. Even if you are confused or flummoxed about the Presidential election, please remember that 88% of Congress is up for election. In our county alone we have the opportunity to vote for mayor, city council, county supervisor, school board, water district board, Solano Community College board, State Assemblyperson, State Senator, and US Congressman. For the first time in 24 years we can elect a new US Senator. This is a huge opportunity to make a difference for the future. Now is the time to get involved. Now is the time to VOTE!

LWVBenicia NEWS!

The Program Event Committee met on Aug.11 and welcomed three new members! Our newest addition to the League, Deanna DuPont, agreed to be co-chair of the PE committee with Gayle Vaughan. Alvina Sheeley, an active member from Fairfield, will be working on producing educational events, while Sharon Tucker, from our board, will be co-chairing the Annual Program Planning meeting with Gayle Vaughan. Niles Medders agreed to co-chair the Meet Your Local Officials Night with Susan Street. Thanks to all these dedicated volunteers the League will be able to bring you good political information every month.

A Sign of the Future

You can help "get-out-the-vote" for the November election by displaying a League of Women Voters Benicia VOTE! sign. If you have a sign from the June election, you may start displaying it again on September 8, 60 days before the election. Any LWVB member who doesn't already have a sign may contact Peggy Lipper at peggylipper@aol.com to make arrangements to get one.

Let's display those signs "loud and proud".



Club Stride Youth Voter Forum

Kudos to whoever connected with Club Stride and trained them in putting on the Forum. They did a superb job!

The Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum's was filled. I think it seats about 100 people. Club Stride had two MC's who thanked LWVB and Vallejo Together for their involvement. They also mentioned that no one could tape or film this and the reason which I think is League Lingo. One MC read a bio of each candidate and then they had three moderators who each asked the same question of each candidate. They had two time keepers who used a large poster board with 30 seconds, 10 seconds, and a bell when time was up. The timekeepers worked! There were 8 City Council candidates and then after a break there were 3 Mayoral candidates. It will be shown on VCAT, the Vallejo TV station .

Lessons learned: Take LWVB brochures to put out. I didn't take any. Each of the candidates also thanked Club Stride and LWVB so we did get publicity!

Pat Pepin



Report from the President of the League of Women Voters of California

Welcome!

A hearty welcome to new League leaders, and an equally enthusiastic welcome back to returning Leaders!

The [LWVC Leaders Update](#) is full of resources valuable to you, your board, your off-board leaders, your membership, and your community. Please ask your League friends if they received this Update, read it yourself, and forward it to other members - particularly new members.

Reaching our members and the public with [program](#) and [voter service](#) information in a persuasive, impactful way is a top priority for all of us, and with a **big November election** coming up we have quite a bit to communicate. This [LWVC Leaders Update](#) is designed to help you do that!

LWVC Resources

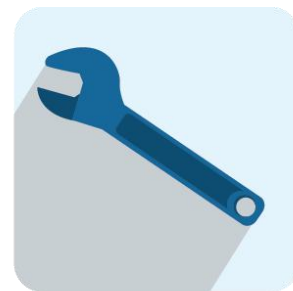
In addition to the resources listed in this Update – and there are many good ones here! – the LWVC provides a variety of [newsletters and listservs](#). The listservs allow us to talk with each other – ask questions, share ideas, voice concerns. We encourage all League leaders to review the lists available and try a few.

Other good League information is available on the [LWVC members only website](#). Feel free to share the link to the page with other League members, but avoid sharing it publicly. As the name of the website says, the information is specifically for League members.

Helen

Helen Hutchison, *President*

hhutchison@lwvc.org



RESOURCES

Ballot Measure Recommendations - November 8, 2016 General Election

Vote with the League! Here is our list of recommendations on the ballot measures for the November 8, 2016 Presidential Election. [Share our flyer](#) with your friends and family.

VOTE YES on 51 - School Bonds: K-12 and Community College

All California's schoolchildren deserve school facilities in good repair and equipped to provide all students a 21st century education. In a perfect world with adequate funding, we wouldn't need to borrow to build. However, this is not a perfect world and our facilities needs are massive and require a large infusion of funding. It has been eight years since the last statewide bond measure was passed. Chronic underfunding from the state leaves most public school communities unable to adequately address their needs, increasing the danger of greater disparities among them. Many have passed local bonds but due to insufficient state matching funds, that money remains unspent—a situation this bond measure will help remedy.

VOTE YES on 54 - California Legislature Transparency Act

Prop 54 will make our state government more open, honest, and accountable. With this common-sense reform, every bill must be in print and posted online for at least 72 hours before it may pass out of either house—preventing last-minute, closed-door changes. A video recording of every public meeting of the Legislature must be posted online in a timely way. Our democracy is stronger when more people participate, and this measure empowers all people to review, debate, and contribute to the laws that impact us all.

VOTE YES on 55 - Children's Education and Health Care Protection Act

Proposition 55 is key in maintaining economic recovery and growth in California by continuing the current income tax rates on the wealthiest two percent of Californians established by the voters in 2012. That measure, Prop 30, has moved California toward financial stability and adequate funding for education and other services we depend on like health care. Without Prop 55 we will be back to the days of pink slips for teachers, overcrowded classrooms, and community college students waiting years for the classes they need.

VOTE YES on 57 - Public Safety and Rehabilitation Act

This measure restores the authority of judges, not prosecutors, to decide if juveniles as young as 14 should be tried in adult court, a right judges had until 2000. The prosecution may file a motion, but the court decides. Proposition 57 will also reduce the state prison population and costs by allowing earlier parole of nonviolent felons, with sentence credits for good behavior and rehabilitation or education. This measure could save tens of millions of dollars.

VOTE YES on 58 - English Proficiency. Multilingual Education

Proposition 58 repeals the most restrictive parts of Proposition 227, a 1998 initiative that limited the methods California schools can use to teach English to students who are not native English speakers. This measure addresses the inequity of Prop 227 and frees parents and their schools to provide the best educational opportunities for all California children regardless of their first language. The League opposed Prop 227 nearly 20 years ago and urges your support for this change.

VOTE YES on 62 - Justice That Works: Death Penalty Abolition

Proposition 62 will abolish the death penalty, replacing it with life without possibility of parole. It will ensure time in prison is spent in work, with an increased portion of wages going to restitution to victims' families. Families deserve restitution, not endless legal appeals, and closure through knowing these worst criminals will never be released. California has spent more than \$5 billion to execute 13 people since 1978. Nothing indicates this has been effective in reducing crime, while the risk of executing the innocent remains.

VOTE NO on 66 - Shortening Death Penalty Appeals

This poorly written measure would greatly increase California's risk of executing an innocent person by shortening the time for appeals and limiting the prisoner's ability to present new evidence of their innocence. Raising significant constitutional issues, this could cause more delays, increase taxpayers' costs, and add layers of bureaucracy. It is estimated the state would need as many as 400 new taxpayer-funded attorneys to meet the demand. The wise choice is NO on 66 and YES on 62 to save costs, provide restitution, and prevent executing innocent people.

VOTE YES on 63 - Safety for All Act

The facts are sobering. From 2002 to 2013, 38,576 Californians died from gun violence, including 2,258 children. In the U.S., more than 300 Americans are shot each day, more than 80 of them fatally. Prop 63 helps counter those statistics by strengthening background check systems and ensuring that California law enforcement shares data about dangerous people with the FBI. It ensures that dangerous criminals and domestic abusers sell or transfer their firearms after they're convicted. This measure requires businesses that sell ammunition to report lost or stolen ammunition, requires people to notify law enforcement if their guns are lost or stolen, and ensures that people convicted of gun theft are ineligible to own guns.

VOTE YES on 67 - Protect California's Plastic Bag Ban

The League urges a YES vote on Proposition 67 to retain California's plastic bag ban. The question on a referendum is not intuitive; you are being asked if you want to retain the new law. Vote YES to keep the 2014 statewide law prohibiting single-use carryout bags. These plastic film bags pollute our oceans, pose a deadly threat to marine wildlife, clutter our landscapes, create toxic byproducts when manufactured, and are very difficult to recycle. California grocers and other retailers support the ban, and many cities and counties have local measures that are working. Don't let out-of-state plastic bag industry players stop our progress!

VOTE NO on 65 - Sowing Confusion about the Plastic Bag Ban

Don't be confused by this deceptive measure—vote NO. Large players in the plastic bag industry spent millions to put this disingenuous initiative on the ballot, creating a distraction that could thwart California's efforts to rein in plastic bag waste and litter. The plastic bag industry wants to use this measure to damage the hard-won agreement between environmentalists and grocers that made the plastic bag ban possible. This is not about helping fund environmental programs but is simply intended to cause enough voter confusion that the more significant environmental measure, Proposition 67, fails. Don't be confused; **Vote NO on 65** and **Vote YES on 67**.

VOTE NO on 59 - Constitutional Amendment Advisory Measure

Eliminating the corrupting influence of money in our democracy is a vital concern. Unfortunately, this vague, poorly drafted ballot measure is not the solution. A constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United may have appeal as a quick fix, but in reality it is a slow, laborious, costly, and potentially unsuccessful strategy. A poorly written amendment could have significant unintended consequences—not the least of which is squelching actual political speech. Voters deserve a fair election system today, not years or decades from now. Instead of looking to an imagined silver bullet, we need to take broad action now, including fixing our Federal Elections Commission, expanding disclosure laws, overturning California’s ban on public financing of elections, and asking a new Supreme Court to revisit the ruling.

NO RECOMMENDATION ON THE OTHER MEASURES ON THIS BALLOT

Neutral: 56 - Cigarette Tax to Fund Healthcare, Tobacco Use Prevention, Research, and Law Enforcement. Initiative Constitutional Amendment and Statute.

Proposition 56 establishes an increased tax on cigarettes, with the money collected from this tax earmarked for health care and tobacco use prevention. The League does not generally support earmarks but is neutral on this measure because of the benefits from reducing smoking and the increased funding for health care.

Because League positions do not cover the issues in the following measures, the LWVC is taking no stand on Prop 52 (State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds), Prop 53 (Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval), Prop 60 (Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements), Prop 61 (State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards), and Prop 64 (Marijuana Legalization).

52 - State Fees on Hospitals. Federal Medi-Cal Matching Funds. Initiative Statutory and Constitutional Amendment.

53 - Revenue Bonds. Statewide Voter Approval. Initiative Constitutional Amendment.

60 - Adult Films. Condoms. Health Requirements. Initiative Statute.

61 - State Prescription Drug Purchases. Pricing Standards. Initiative Statute.

64 - Marijuana Legalization. Initiative Statute.

VOTE WITH THE LEAGUE ON NOVEMBER 8! Visit [Voter's Edge California](#) for more on the funding of these measures.

Check out the [California Secretary of State's website for detailed info on the ballot measures.](#)

- See more at: <https://lwvc.org/news/ballot-measure-recommendations-november-8-2016-general-election#sthash.CerxDqnc.dpuf>

If you want more information or want to help out with specific activities or events, please contact one of the leaders below.

Current Board Members

President, 2016-2018: Gayle Vaughan: vonwindgayle@gmail.com

Vice President, 2016-2017: Nile Medders: nilsmedders@gmail.com

Secretary, 2016-2017: Alice Labay: labayalice@gmail.com

Treasurer, 2016-2018: Judy Potter: judy.potter@gmail.com

WebMaster, 2016-2018: Malin Coleridge: Mcoleridge@comcast.net

Membership, 2016-2017: Sharon Tucker: stucker2@wested.org



Committee Chairs

Voter Services Committee: Susan Neuhaus: svmcgee@sbcglobal.net

Program Co-Chair: Gayle Vaughan: vonwindgayle@gmail.c

Program Co-Chair: Deanna DuPont: deannadupont@hotmail.com

Membership Co-Chair: Sharon Tucker: stucker2@wested.org

Membership Co-Chair: Niles Medders: nilsmedders@gmail.com

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“Like” the League on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Benicia). Follow us on Twitter: [@LWV](https://twitter.com/LWV)

Newsletter submissions:
due by 20th of the month
Susan Street, sustreet@pacbell.net

League business only
What where, when why in first paragraph
200 words or less
Please use WORD; Calibri 12 pt is preferred.
No colored backgrounds or fancy font

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