



# League of Women Voters Benicia

## VOTER



November 2016

<http://www.lwvbenicia.org>

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization which neither supports nor opposes candidates or political parties. We encourage 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

November 8, Tuesday: ELECTION DAY!

November 9, Wednesday: Voter Services Meeting, 7 pm

November 10, Thursday: Program Event Committee Meeting, 1 pm

November 16, Wednesday: LWV Benicia Board Meeting, 7pm

November 24, Thursday: Thanksgiving (Be grateful the election is over!)

December 8, Thursday: Program Event Committee Meeting, 1 pm

December 9, Friday: Membership Holiday Celebration, 7pm



### Holiday Wahoo!

Please mark your calendars for **December 9, Friday** for our membership holiday pot luck celebration. Not only will we be rejoicing over our hard work this fall, but we shall hear from John Gardner, Assistant Registrar of Voters about his perspective on the election. Location TBA.

## President's Message: Time to be Thankful!

Gayle Vaughan

**President's Message:** Wow! What a great group of volunteers make up the LWV Benicia! September and October were very busy months for us, and our volunteers pulled off an incredible number of successful events. Thank you! Late September found us hosting a "Meet and Greet" for our city and mayoral candidates, quickly followed by an educational session, co-sponsored with Great Decisions, about the pros and cons of the ballot measures. Our "coup d'etat" however, was our first ever Regional and States Candidates Forum, co-sponsored with AAUW Benicia-Vallejo. Audience attendance grew with each event, with over 100 engaged people at the most recent forum.



In addition to events, dedicated members of our Voter Services Committee continued to register people to vote, wrote and distributed a power point presentation about voting to high school teachers county-wide, met with community leaders to develop partnerships for civic engagement, distributed VOTE! signs, and spent HOURS collecting and inputting data for [votersedge.org](http://votersedge.org), our online voter information guide. Thank you! In addition to our members, we wish to thank AAUW volunteers and our videographer, Constance Beutel. So whether you brought and served food, timed events, registered voters, greeted attendees, or developed information for our members and the public, THANK YOU!! You have made a real difference in this election cycle.

The League of Women Voters Benicia runs well because of all the behind the scenes people who make decisions, set up events, send out the newsletter, upgrade the website, and send out e-blasts to keep members informed. At this special time of year, I want to be sure to thank Niles Medders, Judy Potter, Malin Coleridge, Sharon Tucker, Susan Neuhaus, Peggy Lipper, Susan Street, Dr. Leslie Lessenger, and Belinda Smith. We are all grateful for your volunteer help.

### One More Big, Special Thank You!

While there are six active people on the Voter Services Committee, there are two women who have gone above and beyond with their efforts. Susan Neuhaus, committee chair, and Peggy Lipper have spent hours writing up the [votersedge.org](http://votersedge.org), registering voters, making phone calls, and all kinds of things too numerous to report here. We owe them a very big THANK YOU!! Both women will be leaving the committee this month, and they will be sorely missed. Please consider this opportunity for you to join this proactive committee as these two members are moving on to other things.



## The Regional and States Candidates Forum

On Oct. 17, over 100 people gathered at the Benicia Public Library to hear candidates for county supervisor, state assembly, and state senate explain their positions in a forum moderated by our own Belinda Smith. Officials attending included Benicia Mayor, Elizabeth Patterson, County Supervisor, Linda Seifert, and State Superintendent of Education, Tom Torlakson. While the local election has engaged many citizens here in Benicia and Vallejo, the regional and state races are also hotly contested. This forum gave a unique opportunity for the community to see and hear our state and county candidates. It sent a message that Benicia and Vallejo matter, not only in the election, but in the administration of regional and state government. If you missed it, a video, taken by Constance Beutel, is available on [votersedge.org](http://votersedge.org), You Tube, and Benicia Community Access TV. Below is a brief summary of topics discussed.

### County Supervisor, District 2 Candidates



**Monica Brown**



**Mike Ioakimedes**

Candidates for county supervisor, Monica Brown and Mike Ioakimedes, discussed critical county issues of budget, meeting water needs, improving senior services and general mental health programs, and policies for dealing with increasing homelessness.

### State Assembly, District 14 Candidates



**Mae Cendaña Torlakson**



**Tim Grayson**

The assembly candidates, Grayson and Cendana Torlakson, explained their top three fiscal priorities, strategies for meeting water needs while protecting the environment, how they will improve education for our residents, and their goals for improving senior services and general mental health programs within California. They also answered audience questions about charter school oversight and how much time they intend to spend in Solano County helping with our local issues.

### State Senate, District 3 Candidates



**Mariko Yamada**



**Bill Dodd**

The state senate candidates, Dodd and Yamada, answered questions about money in politics, increasing the minimum wage, improving education for our residents statewide, and strategies for insuring water for all of California while protecting the environment. They also addressed audience questions about homelessness and laws relating to sexual assault.

## Crockett Community Association Election

Every two years, the Crockett Community Association has a board election. For the last several years they have paid the League to run both the election and a forum for them. This year they didn't hold an election because they had only enough candidates to fill the open positions. Belinda Smith, who usually chairs this program, single handily, checked all the signatures on petitions for the candidates for authenticity and confirmed the appointments, bringing in \$500 to the League coffers. Thanks, Belinda!

## National Voter Registration Day, Proclamation



LWV Benicia members Susan Street and Gayle Vaughan accept a proclamation about National Voter Registration Day from Mayor Elizabeth Patterson.

On September 27, National Voter Registration Day, members of the League including Pat Pepin,

Susan Neuhaus, Harvey Rifkin, and Gayle Vaughan registered people to vote at the Vallejo Ferry Terminal.

## Election Guidance

While many of you have already voted absentee, those of you voting at the polls may still be deciding how to vote on the many ballot measures. You can find basic information about all the candidates and the measures on Voter's Edge.org. If you are seeking information about State League positions, you can find that on LWVC.org. Here's a quick summary of the State Positions:

Vote Yes on Props: 51,54,55,57,58,62,63,67

Vote No on Props: 59, 65,66

Neutral on Prop:56

No Position on Props:52,53,60,61,64

### Strong Leader of Women Dies

Founding member of the LWV Benicia, **Dr. Helyn Cather Leuchauer** passed away on Sept. 24, 2016. According to the Vallejo Times obituary and those who knew her, she had a great sense of humor, never hesitated to speak her mind, and demonstrated a strong support for women. She was born in 1921 in Berryessa Valley, Ca. She worked at the Richmond Shipyard as a welder during the war, an original "Wilda the Welder." She later became a dentist, and in the late 70's was named the first woman to serve on the California Department of Consumer Affairs Board of Dental Examiners. She taught dentistry at UCLA and in 1991 was awarded the highest honor of the American Association of Women Dentists. Through her volunteer work with the League of Women Voters and other groups she helped fund a scholarship to support women in obtaining their college education. At age 94, she attended our Founder's Tea last May. Her guiding light will be missed by all.

## A Note from the Voter Services Committee:

On Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup>, on the cusp of the 2016 general election, twenty-nine people in Solano County took an oath to become new citizens of the United States. It was an historic and emotional time for those new citizens and their families.

The League of Women Voters was there to register as voters, these new citizens, who were eager to participate in this basic right of citizenship. From the smiles of the young man who led us in the pledge of allegiance, through to the gentleman who has been a resident for many years and was finally able to become a citizen, who propelled himself with his walker to accept his naturalization form, make all the work the Voter Services Committee does worth it and I am proud to be a part of it.

This is the second consecutive year that our League has been invited to register new Americans and we have been asked to continue to participate at this annual event at the Fairfield Civic Center Library moving forward. If you want to be part of registration events like this, as well as the educational programs on ballot propositions and candidate events like our Benicia City Meet and Greet and the 10/17 Regional and State Candidate Forum, I urge you to get involved with the League's Voter Services work.

And most of all please encourage all your friends and family to get out and VOTE .

**If you don't vote, you're giving someone else the power to make decisions for you.**



Articles include:

Ballot Box Traffic Jam

A Diverse Electoral Landscape

Passage of Restoration Measure

More Than Just Hot Air: Are Campaigns Considering Emissions?

Control/Click to read: <http://bayareamonitor.org/read>



California's death penalty system is dysfunctional—but Prop 66 is NOT the solution. Modeled after laws in states like Texas, Prop 66 wants to fast track executions in California by speeding up the appeal process and limiting prisoners' ability to present new evidence.

Stand up for the Constitution and due process! [Join me and pledge to vote NO on 66 this November.](#)

Prop 66 will significantly increase the likelihood that an innocent person is put to death, and it does nothing to make our communities safer.

If passed, Prop 66 would clog our lower courts—which aren't equipped to handle such complicated capital cases—with appeals. Taxpayers will have to foot the bill for the new layers of bureaucracy and inevitable court challenges.

**In every way, Prop 66 is a reckless experiment with justice and a gamble with human lives. [Vote NO on 66!](#)**

Sincerely,

*Helen*



Helen Hutchison  
President, LWVC

**P.S. It's critical that we shut down Prop 66 in November. [Please urge your friends and family to take the pledge too!](#)**





### Money in Politics

- SB 1107 removes the ban on public financing of campaigns and helps level the playing field for candidates.
- SB 1349 modernizes the state's online database of campaign finance and lobbying information.

### Climate Change

- SB 32 and AB 197 reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect disadvantaged communities and those most affected by this pollution.

### Voting Rights and Redistricting

- AB 2466 makes it less likely for Californians to be unfairly denied their voting rights after a criminal conviction.
- SB 450 makes voting more accessible with vote-by-mail ballots, early voting, and vote centers, starting in 14 counties in 2018.
- AB 958 establishes a Citizens Redistricting Commission for Los Angeles County, and SB 1108 allows all other California cities and counties to have these commissions too.
- AB 350, AB 2220, and AB 2389 promote better representation and protect voting rights when local governments change to district-based elections.
- AB 2010 helps local candidates reach voters with more affordable, online options for displaying their statements in official election materials.

### PreK-12 Education and Juvenile Justice

- AB 1014 and SB 527 reduce truancy and serve students at risk of dropping out of school, as required by Proposition 47.

### Immigration

- AB 2792 protects the rights of immigrants in local custody.

### Natural Resources and the Environment

- SB 122 supports the public's voice in land-use decisions by streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process.
- SB 7 promotes conservation by requiring individual water meters in new multifamily housing.
- SB 1262 protects our long-term water supply by preventing the overuse of groundwater in new developments.
- AB 2480 puts funding of watershed restoration projects on an equal basis with other water infrastructure. These wins aren't possible without your support! Thank you to everyone who responded to our action alerts and made your voices heard in Sacramento. For more information about all the bills we've been working on, check out our [Bill Status Report](#).

Sincerely, 

Helen Hutchison, President, LWVC

## Breaking news: Governor's action on key bills

Great news: we've just learned that Governor Brown has signed [AB 2466](#), one of our top priority bills, to protect the voting rights of Californians!

**It's not too late** to [urge the Governor to sign SB 1107](#) and reform California election funding. Please take action today

## Get ready to vote and partner with Voter's Edge California!

Need voting help? Check out the election info on [Voter's Edge California](#)! Get the facts before you vote on candidates, state and local ballot measures, funding, and more.

Become our partner! [Watch our new video about partnerships](#) and join us today by [adding the ballot look-up widget to your website](#)! [Contact us](#) for help and to receive an outreach toolkit including images and messages.

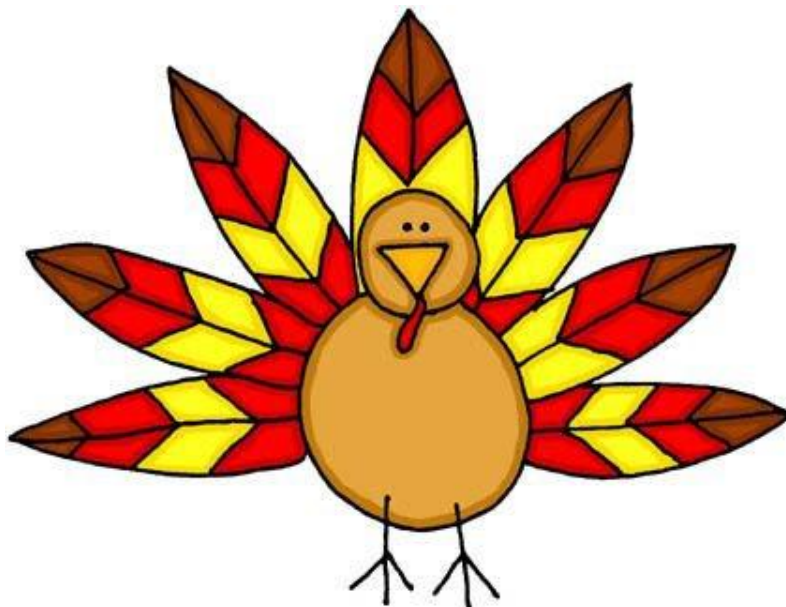
## Order your bumper stickers today!

Let everyone know you vote with the League—and they should too! [Order your League bumper stickers today](#) in bundles of 5 for \$10 or bundles of 25 for \$30.

## Your donation makes a big difference!

[Make a gift to the League of Women Voters of California](#) today and stand up against the influence of big money in the November election.

[Stand with the League](#) to protect our environment, strengthen our public schools, and improve our criminal justice system on November 8!





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

## Current Board Members

President, 2016-2018: Gayle Vaughan: [vonwindgayle@gmail.com](mailto:vonwindgayle@gmail.com)  
 Vice President, 2016-2017: Nile Medders: [nilesmedders@gmail.com](mailto:nilesmedders@gmail.com)  
 Secretary, 2016-2017: Alice Labay: [labayalice@gmail.com](mailto:labayalice@gmail.com)  
 Treasurer, 2016-2018: Judy Potter: [judy.potter@gmail.com](mailto:judy.potter@gmail.com)  
 WebMaster, 2016-2018: Malin Coleridge: [Mcoleridge@comcast.net](mailto:Mcoleridge@comcast.net)  
 Membership, 2016-2017: Sharon Tucker: [stucker2@wested.org](mailto:stucker2@wested.org)



## Committee Chairs

Voter Services Committee: Susan Neuhaus: [svmneuhaus@gmail.com](mailto:svmneuhaus@gmail.com)  
 Program Co-Chair: Gayle Vaughan: [vonwindgayle@gmail.com](mailto:vonwindgayle@gmail.com)  
 Program Co-Chair: Deanna DuPont: [deannadupont@hotmail.com](mailto:deannadupont@hotmail.com)  
 Membership Co-Chair: Sharon Tucker: [stucker2@wested.org](mailto:stucker2@wested.org)  
 Membership Co-Chair: Nile Medders: [nilesmedders@gmail.com](mailto:nilesmedders@gmail.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/League-of-Women-Voters-Benicia>



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

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