



League of Women Voters Benicia

VOTER

January 2017

<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, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influence public policy through education and action.

Upcoming Events



Jan 11: 7pm, " Can We Ever Get Rid of the Electoral College?", speaker Stanford Prof. Jack Rakove sponsored by Palo Alto LWV: Congregation Beth Am, 26790 Arastradero Rd, Los Altos.

Jan. 12: Program and Event Committee, 1-3 pm, 123 Banbury Way, Benicia

Jan. 18: LWV Benicia Board Meeting, 7-9pm. 123 Banbury Way, Benicia

Jan. 19: Annual Program Planning Meeting, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Benicia Community Center, Room 1, East L Street, Benicia

Jan 21: Calendar: January 21, Saturday, Women's March: Oakland, San Francisco, San Francisco, Sacramento. For more info go to <http://womensmarchbayarea.org>. – see article below

Jan. 28, Sat., 9-3: Focus on Housing in Bay Area, Camden Community Center, San Jose. For more info:: http://www.lwvbayarea.org/2017_League_Day.html

Feb. 8: Program and Event Committee, 1-3 pm, 123 Banbury Way, Benicia

Feb. 17: Meet Your Local Officials, 5:00-7:30pm, Commandant's Residence, Benicia

Feb. 22: Women in Leadership, 6:30-8:30 pm. (co-sponsoring with AAUW), Cal Maritime Academy.

Meet Your Local Officials

February 17, 5—7:30 PM

Commanding Officer's Quarters Mansion

1 Commandant's Lane, Benicia



Come after work or come early to help set up. Happily, once again we will be holding the event at the Commandant's and Carter will provide us with yummy food, wine, beer and water while you have the opportunity to chat with the City and County Officials, and hopefully Mike Thompson, our Congressman.

This is a wonderful time to ask questions one on one, discuss ideas and generally get to know our hard-working public servants. I have encouraged the City Senior Staff members to bring others that also do so much for us at City Hall. And the Police and Fire Departments always send their best and brightest.

Please also spread the word. Let your friends and neighbors know about this event. The whole idea is for the public to have this opportunity to meet their local officials. If someone out there would be willing to have some posters printed (I can provide the copy), I would appreciate it. You will be reimbursed.

We also will need help, of course, greeting people, making name tags, perhaps helping to pass the food and roaming around, introducing people and making everyone feel welcome. If you are willing to help, please e-mail me at sustreet@pacbell.net. Thank you!

Susan Street 707-319-1136

Women's March-Oakland

January 21, 2017

The League of Women Voters of Alameda (LWVA) has decided to organize a group to participate in support of the concurrent march in Washington, D.C.

They are hoping to have good showing of League members there, marching with their group or in a separate contingent of our own League. Contact Georgia Derr of LWVA at t.derr@comcast.net if you have questions.

New Website

Just for Members

Thanks to our Webmaster we have a new website just for Members.

Here you will find information specific to running our League, like dates and times for committee meetings, member only meetings, and the like. Check it out at <http://members.lwvbenicia.org>

President's Message:

Gayle Vaughan



Welcome to the new year! Hopefully you all got time with your families for the holidays and a little rest to boot. It's time to get busy with our League again. Our most important membership meeting of the year is coming up on January 19.

That evening we will be reviewing all of the political positions held by the League of Women Voters California to determine which of those we want the State League to advocate with education and actions.

As State League President Helen Hutchinson states, *"In League, Program is the issues that we choose for concerted study, education and action at local, state and national levels. Program can include both education and advocacy work."*

The Program Planning process is part of what makes the League a grassroots organization; each League member has the opportunity to influence the selection of issues where the local, state, and national League will focus time, talent and money. It takes the enthusiasm and interest of our members to keep our program vital. You'd never skip voting in an election; you shouldn't skip the League's equivalent. The program planning process is your voice! Please plan to attend the Program Planning Meeting and RSVP to stucker2@wested.org.

The process starts now with your local League Program Planning, the meeting at which you and your fellow members propose the areas on which you'd like to focus your local energy, the energy of other local Leagues in California, and the resources of the state) over the next two years. Please plan to attend the Program Planning Meeting January 12 and RSVP to stucker2@wested.org.

The Issues for Emphasis your League proposes as priorities may be based on current [League work](#) or on new topics you believe we should focus on. One or more of your choices could be a new study or an update of an existing [LWVC position](#)."

The priorities for 2015-2017 were Money in Politics, Climate, Sustainable Water, and Protecting the Environment, Election Reform and Voting Rights and a Minimum Living Wage. Many of the current positions are in line with the *National Make Democracy Work* program and involve voter's rights, money in politics, redistricting, and a constitutional convention. The State League has positions on more than 20 issues, and we will need to pick which are the most important to us. These priorities will drive our local activities as well. Please visit LWV California on line and click on "Our Work" to see a complete list of positions on Government, Natural Resources, and Social Policy. YOUR input is needed to make the League work for you and our community. Please plan to attend, enjoy our Baked Potato Bar, and speak your mind about League work. An information packet will be provided at our planning meeting which is open to both members and nonmembers, although only members can vote. Plan to attend the Program Planning Meeting and please RSVP to stucker2@wested.org. See you there!

LWV Benicia and AAUW Co-Sponsor "Women in Leadership."

Mark your calendar for **February 22** so you won't miss this dynamic educational session on Women in Leadership. Despite the fact that only 307 women have EVER been in the U.S. Congress, and only 19% of top corporate executives in 2016 were women, there are some who have succeeded in becoming leaders. A few of those women leaders in elected office, nonprofit organizing, and the corporate world will be addressing attendees at the California Maritime Academy from 6:30-8:30 pm. There will be short break-out sessions and discussion areas for specific interests. Come be inspired by panelists Benicia Mayor, Elizabeth Patterson, Solano County's Woman of the Year, Maria Guevarra of Vallejo Together, and Debbie Raymond, Chief Operating Officer of Kaiser Permanente, Vallejo. This is a great opportunity for us to begin working together to improve the status and influence of women.

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY 2017

[HTTP://BIT.LY/2017LEAGUEDAY](http://bit.ly/2017leagueday)



LEAGUE OF
WOMEN VOTERS®
OF THE BAY AREA

BAY AREA HOUSING CRISIS

JANUARY 28, 2017 | 9 AM - 3 PM

CAMDEN COMMUNITY CENTER | 3369 UNION AVE. SAN JOSE

\$35 PRE-REGISTRATION | \$40 AT THE DOOR | LWVBAYAREA.ORG



ASSEMBLY MEMBER
Tony Thurmond
DISTRICT 15

PANEL 1 - MEASURING THE AFFORDABILITY GAP
& ITS IMPACT

PANEL 2 - THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HOUSING
PRODUCTION & AFFORDABILITY, &
DISPLACEMENT

PANEL 3 - STATE, REGIONAL & LOCAL ROLES IN
ADDRESSING AFFORDABILITY

PANEL 4 - THE AGENDA MOVING FORWARD

4-PANELS PLUS KEY ADDRESS BY TONY THURMOND




Let's make democracy work for everyone!

It's not an easy task. 2016 may well be remembered as the year memes replaced journalism and threats and insults replaced political debate.

In the lead up to this election, we did our best to help you cut through the misleading clutter of biased advertising and the endless social media rants—providing unbiased, easy to understand information about the issues.

Now we need your support. Help us fight back in 2017!

Please donate \$25 or more and ensure the League continues to be California's most trusted source for unbiased election information.

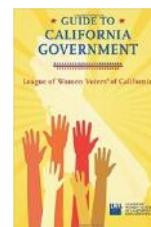
This year millions of Californians just like you, relied on the League's [Pros & Cons](#), multilingual [Easy Voter Guides](#), and [Voter's Edge California](#) to cast an informed vote in local, state and national races. Just listen to what voters had to say.

"This voter guide consolidating all of the information is the best I have seen. I feel for the first time that I could be more than a causally informed voter."
Thank you, Scott, Nevada County

GIVE TODAY to support and defend our neighbors, and our democracy.

Sincerely,

Helen Hutchison
President, LWVC



P.S. Want to have the League's back all year long? Make a monthly pledge of \$25 or more and we'll send you a free copy of the new *Guide to California Government!*



LWVC Board Update

November 2016 Election Debrief

Wow...just Wow...

Congratulations and thanks to all our Leagues for the tremendous voter service work performed in the November 2016 Election Season!

Face-to-face voter service work:

1. The LWVUS survey shows over 1,100 voter service events, including voter registration, Pros & Cons presentations and candidate forums.
2. Requests for Pros & Cons presentations exceeded, sometimes far exceeded, normal numbers. Our League members waded through complex and numerous ballot propositions to give their listeners unbiased information in hundreds of presentations.
3. Leagues wrote their own voter guides, including pros and cons of local ballot measures.
4. Of course, there were numerous candidate forums and voter registration events by our Leagues. Over 200,000 copies of the Easy Voter Guide were distributed throughout the state. This number does not reflect copies downloaded directly from the Easy Voter Guide website.

LWVC online presence:

1. Voter's Edge California's preliminary numbers show approximately 1.7 million visitors to the site looking at multiple pages during the combined primary and general election seasons. This is a thrilling achievement for all who worked on the site.
 2. Voter's Edge California formed partnerships with a variety of public media and community groups including CA's four main PBS outlets, NBC and ABC affiliates, two Telemundo affiliates, the ACLU, CA PTA, and CalPIRG.
 3. Voter's Edge also partnered with Mi Familia Vota, NALEO, the National Council of La Raza and other Spanish community groups. Mi Familia Vota not only put the Voter's Edge widget on their website, they produced a [video](#) promoting the Easy Voter Guide.
1. Several county registrars placed the Voter's Edge widget on their websites.
 2. Voter's Edge California contained Easy Voter Guide and the Pros & Cons in both English and Spanish.
 3. Our Voter's Edge California (VEC) county and local coordinators contacted and cajoled 2053 candidates (45% of all candidates) to place information on VEC so that the general public could learn who they are and what they stood for.
- Our CAVotes.org site received 2 1/2 times the amount of traffic that it received in 2014. The top five subjects accessed on CAVotes.org were the Pros & Cons of ballot measures, Prop 52 in particular, plus the basic voter information of how to register and how to vote by mail.

Current Board Members

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

Vice President, 2016-2017: Nile Medders: nilesmedders@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

BAY AREA MONITOR



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area Education Fund

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund publishes the *Bay Area Monitor* six times a year.

The publication covers policies, plans, programs, and legislation that affect quality of life in the Bay Area and beyond.

The *Monitor* is provided to readers for free, both in print and online (www.bayareamonitor.org).

Subscribe to the *Monitor*: bayareamonitor.org/subscribe

Like us on Facebook: facebook.com/bayareamonitor

Contact us for more information:

(510) 839-1608 • editor@bayareamonitor.org

<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

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

Follow us on Twitter: [@LWV](https://twitter.com/LWV)



FOLLOW US ON
TWITTER:

<https://twitter.com/>