

## 2014 Election Season

### Volunteers Needed!

By Phyllis Gale

We have ambitious plans for this election season. We've been planning since early July . . . NOW election season activities are moving into high gear! We are aiming to have all the information in the hands of voters to prepare them for early voting and mail-in ballots by October 1. This year, LWVBAE will cover elections in all three cities: Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!



We will have Voter Registration tables at a number of events, including local high schools and colleges on the National Voter Registration Day - September 23th. Also on deck is working with the middle and high schools with mock elections, and

a voter registration art poster contest for high school students and display in the Berkeley Main Library. Working with many hands, these activities will serve our communities and fulfill our League's mission.

### Voter Registration

We have four main thrusts for our Voter Registration work.

**Solano Stroll on September 14<sup>th</sup>.** LWVBAE will share our voter information with the strollers. We are recruiting now and will need volunteers to help set up, work the booth from 10 am to 6 pm (two hour shifts), and clean up.

**National Voter Registration Day, September 23rd.** We are trying something new. We are going to table at all high schools in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. We also plan to partner with the registration efforts at Berkeley Community College and the UC Berkeley campus.

**Berkeley Sunday Streets, October 12th** - just in time for our last big effort before the close of registration on Monday, October 20th. We will be tabling and dancing in the streets to supply the community with our voting literature.

► *Continued page 2*

## Fall Meeting October 2

### Features President of LWV California Urging Election Advocacy

By Sherry Smith

Helen Hutchison, the new President of the League of Women Voters of California, will give the keynote at our Fall Meeting:

*Thursday, October 2, 5:15 register, 5:30 dinner, 6:30 talk  
Northbrae Community Church,, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley*

Helen will speak on the League's advocacy efforts for the November General Election.

**YES on Prop 2**, the measure to strengthen the state Rainy Day Fund (reserve) process.

**YES on Prop 47**, the Safe Neighborhoods and Schools Act that will change the lowest-level, nonviolent crimes such as simple drug possession and petty theft from felonies to misdemeanors and dedicate the savings to crime prevention.

**Prop 43**, the water bond as originally proposed was opposed by the League. A new bond proposed at this writing, **Prop 1**, is being reviewed. President Helen Hutchison will discuss the LWVC recommendation at the Fall Meeting.



Helen Hutchison has been following proposed state legislation and ballot propositions on behalf of the League for several years; there are only a handful of people within the League as familiar with what goes on in Sacramento as she is. We are extremely fortunate to have her talk to us about the League's advocacy efforts and the November ballot.

Dinner is \$15. You may reserve by calling 843-8824, by email at [office@lwvbae.org](mailto:office@lwvbae.org) or order and pay online by credit card at <http://www.lwvbae.org/>. If you reserve, you may pay by cash or check at the door. We can arrange rides.

## IN THIS ISSUE



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Volunteers are needed for the ambitious work we have scheduled for the election. Join in! It's what the League does!

*By Phyllis Gale*

### Fall Meeting October 2 1

Our annual Fall Meeting will feature LWV of California President Helen Hutchison speaking on the November ballot issues.

*By Sherry Smith*



### LWV Positions on Local Measures 3

LWVBAE has arrived at our positions on all but one local measure.

*By Nancy Bickel and Carol Stone*

### Candidate Debate 3

Candidates for State Assembly District 15 will debate on October 7.

*By Phyllis Gale*



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## ON THE WEB

To keep up with League news, check our website regularly at <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news/>

### ▶ Election from page 1

**Voter registration boxes** that we maintain at local locations (Berkeley Libraries, Emeryville Post Office, etc.) will be updated with new boxes and more registration forms. We are contacting the "stockers" and locations to bring everything up to date for voter registration.

If you have any event at which you think LWVBAE should have a voter registration table, please let Phyllis Gale know.

### Poster Contest and Library Display

Helene Lecar has brought to us great ideas for a high school poster contest on Voter Registration and a "Get Out the Vote" library display at the Berkeley Main Library for the month of October. The Berkeley Main Library has given us the street display cases on Kittredge and the display cases on the second floor. We will be launching the contest later this month.

### Community Candidate Forums

For Berkeley's four city council districts we will have a new forum called "speed date your candidates," an idea President Nancy Bickel brought back from the LWV National Convention and our neighboring Alameda LWV. We invite the candidates to public events in each contested Council district. There will be as many tables as there are candidates attending. The public will fill the tables; the candidates will go from table to table so voters can question and get to know their candidates for Council and School Board in a more intimate way. For Berkeley voters with no council contest, we will have one large forum. We are planning more traditional candidate forums for Albany and Emeryville. Yes, that is seven separate candidate forums in three cities in a month. Volunteers are needed to "host" each candidate for each Berkeley event and to emcee the forums

### Speakers Bureau

We need volunteers to visit community organizations to speak on the state and local measures. We will hold a speakers training September 8 and will start the Speakers Series no sooner than September 15th. Go online to or check the weekly e-blast for information.

### Pros and Cons

Local measure pros and cons have been written and are available at [www.lwvbae.org](http://www.lwvbae.org). They will also be discussed at the "Conversations" Series on October 21 (see page 3).

**Join the excitement!** For information and times go online to <http://www.lwvbae.org/voter-services-team/>. To be a part, contact Voter Services Coordinator Phyllis Gale at [voterservices@lwvbae.org](mailto:voterservices@lwvbae.org) or 510-508-4389. Many hands will bring success to all our voter services activities.

## Local Ballot Measure Positions

By Nancy Bickel and Carol Stone

On July 28, LWVBAE held an action meeting for members to listen to draft pros and cons about local and regional ballot measures and weigh in on an advisory vote as to whether the Board should endorse, oppose or remain neutral on local and county ballot measures. League decisions on ballot measures are based on our positions which have been developed by one- or two-year studies. Positions are stated broadly and sometimes positions are in conflict, so the Board has to decide whether they apply in particular cases. On July 30 the Board of Directors voted to:

**Support the Alameda County Transportation Sales Tax, Measure BB**, which would increase the current half cent per dollar sales tax for transportation and infrastructure to one cent. Early in August the Leagues in Alameda County met and decided by a super majority to support the measure,

**Support the "soda tax"**, a general tax on distributors in Berkeley of sugar-sweetened beverages,

**Support the "Parks Tax"**, the increase to the existing Special Tax Supporting Parks, Playgrounds, City Trees and Landscaping Operations and Maintenance for Berkeley,

**Support the Berkeley Charter "housekeeping" measure** that would bring Berkeley's Recall Provisions in line with state law and recent court decisions.

The League will remain **neutral on the Berkeley "downtown initiative"**, the Initiative Ordinance Amending Downtown Zoning Provisions and creating Civic Center Historic District Overlay Zone.

At the July meeting the Board took **no position on the Berkeley "redistricting plan"**, the Referendum on the Adjustment of the Berkeley City Council District Boundaries. This will be considered further and our position, if any, reported online.

The League has no relevant positions on either of the advisory measures and therefore will have no positions on either the Constitutional Amendment to Eliminate Corporate Personhood or the Advisory Initiative Measure Supporting Passage of Local and Federal Laws Allowing Workers to Request to Work Part-Time.

The Board voted to **support the Albany School Parcel Tax**. And, if the final language of the measures is acceptable, LWVBAE will **support the Emeryville measure to become a charter city and the related measure adopting a property transfer tax**. The Board will consider the Emeryville school parcel tax after School Directors have adopted it.

## Candidates for Assembly District 15 Debate October 7

Berkeley City College, 2050 Center Street, Berkeley  
Tuesday, October 7, 2014, 7:00 pm  
Auditorium (lower level)

By Phyllis Gale



Candidates for the California State Assembly District 15, Elizabeth Echols and Tony Thurmond, will meet at the Berkeley City College. This event is co-sponsored by the League of

Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville, the Berkeley NAACP, the Berkeley Chamber of Commerce, Berkeley City College student organizations and the Berkeley branch of American Association of University Women. Other co-sponsors may join us.

Because the new election process selects the top two vote-getters in the June primary election, the final candidates are both Democrats. Elizabeth Echols lives in Berkeley and has served in many high administrative government posts. Tony Thurmond has served on the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board and the Richmond City Council. Come learn about these candidates for yourself.

For more information about each candidate see:

[www.smartvoter.org/2014/11/04/ca/state/vote/echols\\_e/](http://www.smartvoter.org/2014/11/04/ca/state/vote/echols_e/) :

[www.smartvoter.org/2014/11/04/ca/state/vote/thurmond t/](http://www.smartvoter.org/2014/11/04/ca/state/vote/thurmond_t/)

## "Conversations" Feature Pros and Cons

By Sherry Smith

Pros and Cons of state and local ballot measures will be the topics for the first two "Conversations with the League" this autumn. "Conversations" are held the third Tuesday of every month at the Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room.

**Tuesday, September 16**, noon to 2:00

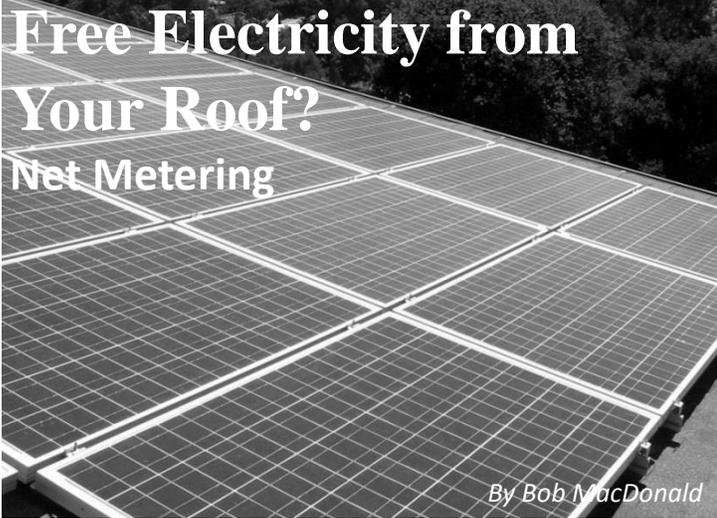
Pros and Cons for the State Ballot Propositions

**Tuesday, October 21**, noon to 2:00

Pros and Cons for Local Measures

Members of the Voter Services Team will present. Printed materials will be available at each presentation. Please bring your friends to find out more before voting.

The Conversations will help frame the talk at our Fall Meeting on October 2 by Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California, (story page 1).



Have you noticed more solar panels on roofs in your neighborhood? If so, it would not be surprising, because rooftop installation of solar panels more than doubled in 2013.

Generating your own electricity with sunlight is easy. Just let PG&E know you want to do it, have the panels installed, and then turn on the lights for free! Your bill from PG&E will show the electricity you used minus the cost of the electricity that your rooftop generated. Typical rooftop systems generate about the amount of electricity used by a household, in which case electricity will be sent back in the summer, but in the winter the rooftop production will be less than that consumed.

This process is called net energy metering (NEM). PG&E may not like it, but by law, they have no choice. In any case, installing solar panels is a great way to reduce your contribution to global warming. For the average household (900 kWh/month), obtaining electricity from the sun is equivalent to driving 17,900 fewer miles each year or generating 8¼ fewer tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

This is a good time to think about solar panels. If you install them in the next couple of years, you are guaranteed full retail credit for your electricity production for a period of 20 years. The rates for everybody are likely to change by July 1, 2017 or possibly before (if customer generation exceeds 5% of PG&E's total). The rates are likely to go down for high users and up for low users, so the latter should benefit proportionately more from installing panels. An additional reason for considering solar now is that, until December 31, 2016, there is a 30% federal tax credit that can be applied to the cost of a rooftop system.

Net metering will also be a topic of the Environmental Concerns speaker series at the presentation on October 13 (see story page 5). Another installment on net metering will be in the next *VOTER*. For more information, see: [www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov](http://www.gosolarcalifornia.ca.gov).

## Don't Forget!



### 2014 Community Luncheon

Thursday, Sept 4, 11:30a-1:30p  
Hs Lordships, Berkeley Marina

Our distinguished speaker this year will be **Robert Reich**, Chancellor's Professor of Public Policy at UC's Goldman School of Public Policy. An entertaining and informative speaker, he will speak on "Inequality and the New Billionaire Political Bosses."

"Spirit of the League" awards will be presented to an individual and a community organization (story below).

To sign up, go to <http://www.lwvbae.org/league-news/annual-community-luncheon/>. Call 843-8824 if you have questions.

## Spirit of the League Awards

*By Sherry Smith and Suzanne Chun*

**Adena Ishii** will receive the individual "Spirit of the League" award at the LWVBAE Annual Community Luncheon on September 4 for her extensive work in helping students and her community.



As a student at Berkeley City College, Ishii was President of its Civic Engagement Club, and upon enrolling at UC, she served as liaison to BCC students working to transfer. She graduated in 2014 from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Management. She has worked with the Berkeley Students Food Collective; organized a Leadership and Service Retreat for Berkeley High, BCC and Laney College students; and is currently fundraising to start a community center in South Berkeley.

The community "Spirit of the League Award" goes to the **Y-Scholars Program of the YMCA of the Central Bay Area**. Founded in 2001, the program strives to provide first-generation, low-income, college-bound students with the skills and ambition required to succeed in high school and to apply to college. The program links students in 9th through 12th grades with tutors, mentors, and counselors. Besides academic support, YSP also offers social activities, leadership training, college counseling and visits, and college scholarships. Ninety-eight percent of Y-Scholars who graduate in the program go on to college.

# Environmental Concerns Speaker Series

By Carol Stone

Our new season will begin Monday, September 8, 2014 and will continue the second Monday of each month through May, 2015. The speaker for Monday, September 8 will be announced in the weekly eblast one week prior to the talk and in the online news at [www.lwvbae.org](http://www.lwvbae.org).

**Ehren Seybert** will speak Monday, October 13, 2014 on net energy metering and California Assembly Bill 327 (AB327), signed into law October 7th, 2013. AB327 drew fire from solar and energy efficiency proponents, the Sierra Club, and other environmental groups over the rate-setting powers it gives the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). These opponents worry that the bill allows changes in rate and regulatory structure that could discourage renewable energy investment in California. However, local governments, industry groups, utilities and some consumer groups argue these same powers could, used wisely, make electricity rates more equitable, protect consumers and help utilities adapt to an increasingly renewable and distributed grid. Mr. Seybert is an energy analyst for the California Public Utilities Commission

**Severin Borenstein** will speak Monday, November 10 on net metering for solar panels and other issues on the economics of renewable energy.

Dr. Borenstein is the E.T. Grether Chair of Business Administration and Public Policy at the Haas School of Business and Co-Director of the Energy Institute at Haas. He is also Director of the University of California Energy Institute. His research focuses on business competition, strategy, and regulation. He has published



extensively on the airline industry, the oil and gas industries, and electricity markets. His current research projects include the economics of renewable energy, economic policies for reducing greenhouse gases, alternative models of retail electricity pricing, and competitive dynamics in the airline industry. Since 2012, he has served on the Emissions Market Assessment Committee that advises the California Air Resources Board on the operation of California's Cap and Trade market for greenhouse gases.

The subject of net metering for solar panels is one he has studied among many other issues in the economics of renewable energy.

## Soda: the Series



The Berkeley Healthy Child Coalition has planned a series of community educational events leading up to the November 4 election. The series is meant to foster discussion of the role sugary drinks plays in our communities. See <http://www.sodaseries.org/>.

At the election, Berkeley voters will be asked whether we should put a general tax on distributors of sugar-sweetened beverages. LWVBAE supports the tax (story page 3).

## Membership Report

*Mina Jenner, Dues Coordinator*

In July-August 2014 we welcomed seven new members and lost two.

### New Members

Kristin Hunziker  
Sharon Maldonado  
Daniel Roesler  
Julie Sinai  
Evanne Torrecillas

Jeanette Zerneke  
Mark Nyman

### Deaths

Elizabeth Olney Anderson  
Arthur Bergen

## Donations to Our League

July-August 2014

*Louetta Erlin, Donations Secretary*

### To the LWVBAE General Fund

Jane Barrett  
Abigail Bok  
Joyce Jackson  
Yvonne Koshland  
Helene Lecar  
Jill Martinucci  
Dirk Neyhart

*in memory of Debbie Neyhart  
and in honor of Alba Witkin*

Allie Norton  
Therese Pipe  
Ginette Polak  
Ursula Rolfe  
Lucy and Timothy Smallsreed  
*in memory of Elizabeth Olney  
Anderson*  
Frances Townes

### To the LWVB Foundation

Jane Barrett  
Ann-Marie Hogan

Curtis Karplus  
Yvonne Koshland

Many thanks to our donors and special thanks to Louetta Erlin, who stayed on for one more round before her retirement. We'll miss her!

## Board

President	Nancy Bickel
Secretary	Pat Day
Treasurer	Sarah Miyazaki
Action	Carol Stone
Program	Sherry Smith
Membership	Dean Metzger
Voter Services	Phyllis Gale

## Off-board

VOTER/Web Editor	Diz Swift
Climate Change	Regina Beatus
Education Action	Cathy Lynch and Dianne McNenny
Env. Concerns	Gail Schickele and Carol Stone
Health Care	Li-hsia Wang

**2014-2015**



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**Calendar** – Locations are the LWVBAE office, 2530 San Pablo Ave, Suite F, Berkeley, and area code is (510) unless otherwise noted. [www.lwvbae.org/calendar](http://www.lwvbae.org/calendar)

### September

**Voter Services Team meets every Monday 10:00-12:00 until election (except Labor Day)**

2	Tues	10:00a-12:00p	<b>Voter Services Team</b>	P.Gale	508-4389
3	Weds	1:00-2:30p	<b>Action Meeting</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
4	Thurs	11:30a-1:30p	<b>15<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Luncheon</b>	P. Day	843-8824
			Hs Lordships, Berkeley Marina		
5	Fri	1:00-2:00p	<b>Board Meeting</b>	N. Bickel	526-4055
8	Mon	12:30-2:00p	<b>Speakers Training</b> (bag lunch)	P.Gale	508-4389
8	Mon	7:30-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
			<b>Topic TBA</b> , 1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
12	Fri	1:30-3:30p	<b>Education Action Team</b>	C. Lynch	527-2173
14	Sun	10:00a-6:00p	<b>Solano Stroll</b>	P. Gale	508-4389
			Solano Avenue booth		
15	Mon	1:30-2:30p	<b>Health Care Team</b>	L. Wang	848-5765
16	Tues	12:00-2:00p	<b>Conversation with League</b>	P. Gale	508-4389
			<b>State Ballot Measures Pros and Cons</b>		
			Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
26	Fri	1:30-3:00p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904

### October

2	Thurs	5:15-9:15p	<b>Fall Meeting</b>	S. Smith	548-1769
			Northbrae Comm'y Ctr, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley		
7	Tues	7:00-9:00p	<b>Assembly District 15 Candidate Debate</b>		
			BCC, 2050 Center St. Berkeley	P. Gale	508-4389
8	Weds	10:30a-12:30p	<b>Board Meeting</b>	N. Bickel	526-4055
10	Fri	1:30-3:30p	<b>Education Action Team</b>	C. Lynch	527-2173
11	Sat	12:00a	<b>Nov-Dec VOTER Deadline</b>	D. Swift	548-4808
13	Mon	7:30-9:00p	<b>Environmental Concerns</b>	C. Stone	549-0959
			<b>Net Energy Metering</b> , 1174 Euclid Ave, Berkeley		
20	Mon	1:30-2:30p	<b>Health Care Team</b>	L. Wang	848-5765
21	Tues	12:00-2:00p	<b>Conversation with League</b>	S. Smith	548-1769
			<b>Local Ballot Measures Pros and Cons</b>		
			Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave		
24	Fri	1:30-3:00p	<b>Climate Change Team</b>	R. Beatus	524-6904

*The VOTER* is published 6 times a year by the League of Women Voters Berkeley Albany Emeryville 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite F Berkeley, CA 94702-2000 Telephone: 510-843-8824 Email: [office@lwvbae.org](mailto:office@lwvbae.org)

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*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages active and informed participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy.*