

UNITs: Local Decisions / Regional Impacts

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 11 am to 1 pm, at Albany Library, Marin & Masonic, Edith Stone Room
and Thursday, Feb. 24, 7 pm to 9 pm, at 150 Montrose (*Karen Nelson's home*)

Background

The first phase of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Local Decisions/Regional Impacts study involved local League members in gaining understanding of how local decisions affect regional conditions. We reviewed some alternative solutions and suggested others, giving guidance to strengthen the Bay Area League's positions on regional government, planning and housing.

Many of the LWVBA's existing positions are inadequate to address the problems created by the sprawling patterns of development the Bay Area has experienced in recent decades. The study has been given impetus by national and state attention to more sustainable development and smart growth objectives, by regional housing costs that are pushing commutes yet farther into agricultural land, and by local initiatives seeking to fight growth problems with local ballot initiatives.

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State Legislative Interviews

Each year local League members interview their state legislators, so that we can hear their ideas and priorities and let them know about our concerns. LWVCA had four questions for us to ask: (1) What are the most critical elements of "Smart Growth" policies, and which have the best chance in the 2000 legislative session? (2) What are the prospects of reform in the state/local finance/program relationships? How would you secure a stable revenue source for state and local governments? (3) What does the legislature have to do to enable school districts to implement the new accountability programs, and what problems do you see with implementing these programs? (4) What are the major issues for the legislature in 2000 and what are your personal priorities?

Assemblywoman Dion Louise Aroner

Assemblywoman Aroner was emphatic about the needs for regional planning for construction of affordable housing, and for a transportation

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President's Column

Are You Ready? The March 7, 2000, Presidential Primary Is Almost Here! - and Other Related Topics

I trust you received your brief and succinct January Special Edition *Voter* issue covering the LWVC information on the state ballot measures available at the time. If not, please call the LWVBAE office or drop by for a copy. The intent was to give you early, helpful League information regarding the issues on the state March primary ballot.

Our League and all the rest of the Leagues of Women Voters in California are embarking on one of the tasks we do best - objective education of voters about the measures before them. When and where appropriate, we also engage in advocacy regarding the issues on which we have a position, and choose to take a stand. These two activities are kept completely distinct.

With the state League leading the way via the Pros & Cons and Easy Reader Publications, each local League throughout the state is able to speak with one voice in educating the voters on state issues. LWVC recruits a dedicated and capable group of Leaguers to research the state ballot measures and prepare factual background material, as well as develop evenhanded pro-and-con arguments.

True to our mission, the League remains nonpartisan and never backs or opposes a candidate. We only deal in the issues. At each election period, voters can look to the League as a source of clear and objective information. At the state ballot level, where there are always numerous propositions, this is an ideal service for voters that makes the League a valued and trusted resource. Locally, our League provides this service to voters when there are local ballot measures.

However, at the national level - particularly in a presidential election year when the League is no longer identified or involved with presidential debates - the League is not as visible as it once was. The LWVUS's role as lobbyist on our behalf in League priority position areas such as campaign finance reform, health reform, and gun control, continues to be important and valuable. Unfortunately, it is less immediate to the voters, particularly in a presidential election year. This, among other topics, will be discussed at the LWVUS convention coming up in June 2000 in Washington. The LWVUS Board solicits your ideas on this and the future direction of the national League. Even if you participated in

LWVBAE's January National Program Planning UNIT, you should fill out the questionnaire in the Dec/Jan National *VOTER* and send it in. National is encouraging each member throughout the country to make her/his views known.

Getting back to LWVBAE, we are training speakers through our Speakers Bureau and actively offering Pro & Con meetings to all local organizations. We have followed the lead of the Alameda County Registrar of Voters and requested each City Council to declare the week of January 31 to February 7 as "Voter Registration Week". We'll be putting in an extra effort to register voters between now and February 7, the deadline for the March primary. Where and when appropriate, we'll be giving information on the ballot measures on which we have taken a stand.

Our League of Women Voters is here for the voters. Won't you volunteer to help get out the League's valuable objective information on the issues in advance of the March 7, 2000, California Presidential Primary? Here are some steps you can take:

- Take the speaker training and speak at Pro & Con community meetings.
- Help get out more Voter Registration Forms and register voters by February 7. Help distribute the Pros & Cons and Easy Readers.
- Volunteer for the League office during January, February, and the 1st week of March when voters call more frequently.
- Solicit/suggest community organizations to sponsor a Pro & Con meeting.
- Let us know about other possibilities (see communication information on masthead).

The Board and I look forward to working with you during this important election period.

-J o A nn

**LWV 1920 - 2000 Celebration
80th Birthday Tea Party
Sunday, February 13, 3 to 5 pm
1450 Hawthorne Terrace**

Come in period dress

Honored guests: our past presidents

\$5 donation (to cover food costs)

Space is limited to 50

Phone the LWVBAE office to reserve by February 4

League Mail Stolen

Did you mail a check to LWVBAE around December 6-10? We lost one day's worth of mail when someone broke into the League mailbox between 2:30 pm on Friday, December 10, and Sunday afternoon, December 12.

Contributions to the League will be acknowledged in the *Voter*. Checks for membership dues, if lost, may result in another dues bill or another phone reminder or unintended lapsed membership.

We encourage you to confirm League receipt of any check you mailed from December 6 to 10 by phoning the League office. You may also want to inspect your bank statements and canceled checks to verify that checks sent to the League were received and processed by the League or LWV Berkeley Foundation, and not altered by anyone.

If your check was among the League's stolen mail, we would like to document its loss. Then we would appreciate your sending us a replacement check.

We are most appreciative of *Allie Norton's* efforts in reporting the vandalism of our mailbox to the Post Office and Andronico's and in successfully arranging its prompt repair. Thanks also to *Evelyn Light* and *Marj Rubinow* for their many phone calls alerting Board members and suggesting how to handle the situation.

-*Ginette Polak*, Administrative VP

Environmental Concerns

Ecology of General Plans
February 21, Monday, 7 pm
1340 Arch Street, Berkeley

The speaker will be Claudia Cappio, currently Planning Director of Emeryville and formerly of Albany, with her perspective on a responsible Berkeley general plan. Elements to be discussed include the regional housing need and the regional transportation system. Emeryville and Albany also share waterfront planning concerns with Berkeley. As our League spans the three cities, this is an opportunity to better see how we fit.

Please note that the meeting is a week late to avoid Valentine's Day and celebrate Presidents' Birthday. Cake will be served.

-*Eva Bansner*

Speaker Series Announcements

Reminder

January 27, Thursday, 10 to 11:30 am

Re: **Columbus Community School**

Location: 920 Allston Way, School Office, Berkeley
 (See Page 3 of the Dec./Jan. *Voter* for details)

February 17, Thursday, noon to 2 pm

Re: **Ballot Measures - California Primary Election**

Location: Chinese Community Church,
 2117 Acton Street, Berkeley

For a discussion of the Pros & Cons on the numerous ballot measures (over 20 from the state and at least 2 from the county) and the complexities of the California open primary system, especially as it relates to the presidential candidates, join us at the Chinese Community Church on Thursday, February 17, from noon to 2 p.m. Take advantage of this major benefit of League membership by becoming a well-informed voter.

-*Eloise Bodine*, Speakers Bureau

Program Planning Local & Bay Area

February 9, Wednesday, 3 to 5 pm,
at the LWVBAE Office

The annual program planning meeting gives all members the chance to join together in reviewing our current positions and deciding which ones are useful as a basis for action, and which should be revised or dropped. We will also seek agreement as to any studies we want to undertake next year, to strengthen or update existing positions or to formulate new positions where there might be gaps. The results of this meeting will be reported to the following Board meeting for action, and then will be recommended to the full membership for approval at the Annual Meeting on June 1.

A similar process will be followed for the Bay Area League program planning, which will take place at the same meeting. We will review Bay Area positions - those not covered by the current study, *Local Decisions / Regional Impacts* - and then will send a recommendation to the LWVBA board.

-*Jean Safir*, Program VP

Donors Through December

General Fund

<i>Eva Brecher</i>	<i>C. Bruce Lee⁵</i>
<i>Frances Gold Brown</i>	<i>Theodore Lobman</i>
<i>Linda Burden</i>	<i>Jill & Piero Martinucci</i>
<i>Elaine Chandler</i>	<i>Doris Maslach²</i>
<i>Marilyn Couch²</i>	<i>Isabelle Maynard</i>
<i>Marion Craig</i>	<i>Sylvia McLaughin²</i>
<i>Peggy Anne & Bill Davis</i>	<i>Regina Minudri</i>
<i>Elizabeth De Velbiss</i>	<i>Allie Norton</i>
<i>Pamela Doolan</i>	<i>Yvonne San Jule²</i>
<i>Violet Feinauer²</i>	<i>Susan Schwartz</i>
<i>Mary Foster</i>	<i>Meredith Sheehan</i>
<i>Edith Gladstone³</i>	<i>Frances Townes</i>
<i>Joan Glassey</i>	<i>Renate Tubman</i>
<i>Helen Grossman</i>	<i>Masako Yamada</i>
<i>Mary Jacobson</i>	<i>Lenora Young²</i>
<i>Helene Lecar²</i>	

Foundation

<i>Lisa Alfert¹</i>	<i>Geraldine Scalzo</i>
<i>Anonymous²</i>	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Carl Smith</i>
<i>Robert & Miriam Hawley⁴</i>	<i>Barbara Stern</i>
<i>Erika Kunkel²</i>	<i>Ruthann Taylor</i>
<i>Elizabeth Lichtenberg</i>	<i>Lloyd & Lassie Ulman²</i>
<i>Barbara Nelson</i>	<i>Phoebe Watts²</i>
<i>Fran Packard</i>	<i>Alba Witkin</i>

In Memory of:

- 1 - *Ylse Brieger*
- 2 - *Meda Rechen*
- 3 - *Betty Gladstone*
- 4 - *Meda Rechen and David Schickele*
- 5 - *Ida Zapf*

Personals

By the time this *Voter* has reached you, *Erika Kunkel* will have undergone surgery on both knees in one operating session. We send best wishes for her rapid recovery. *Karen Nelson* has adjusted well to the hip replacement performed in October. More good news from *Karen* is that she has experienced a spontaneous recovery from the chronic illness that had compromised her mobility. *Regina Minudri* continues to recover and is now able to be out and about with the aid of a cane or walker. She thoroughly enjoyed a Christmas, New Year Carribean Cruise and is now at home. It was GOOD to hear her voice on the telephone. Dr. *Margaret (Ginger) Alafi*, founder of the Center for Psychological Services in Albany, will retire after 21 years of service as president of the institution.

-(Continued ☞)

A Berkeley General Plan
In The Year 2000?

Planning Commission-sponsored workshops on the General Plan resume in February. Open Space and Environmental Management Elements will be discussed February 9 at the North Berkeley Senior Center at 7 pm. Housing will be discussed February 23 at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 2362 Bancroft, also beginning at 7 pm. All elements are to be covered by mid-June and the Planning Commission draft plan is to be released September 1.

The Planning Commission is inviting a community discussion to which League members are strongly encouraged to lend their sensibilities. The League is unique in the breadth of its General Plan concerns as reflected in its history of education on waterfront development issues and its recent housing study. Following the workshops, we will put together written recommendations on substance and process for consideration of our Board.

The 1977 Master Plan and the second staff draft plan is available on the city Website at <ci.berkeley.ca.us> as well as at the League office, the Library and the Planning Department. The revision of the downtown plan to promote housing in the center by raising height limits, removing parking requirements and adopting the floor area ratios of downtown Oakland has attracted the most attention. Other development areas include a ferry terminal area at the foot of Gilman, but, like the open space and transportation sections, the lack of detail allowed most proposed policy to pass unremarked.

General Plan formulation is a unique opportunity to apply notions of sustainable development patterns to our own turf. Please call me to get a ride to a workshop or to join the group working on a League response.

-Eva Bansner



Please call, FAX, e-mail or write to any of the numbers or addresses given in the *Voter* masthead, or call me if you have any news from or about any of our fellow members of LWVBAE. I'll be waiting.

-Eleanor Cox, Recording Secretary

CAN YOU HELP THE LEAGUE?

The League **needs your energy, goodwill, and creativity** not only in this important 2000 election year, but also down the line. The LWVBAE Board would like to develop new leadership, as well as **encourage all members to participate** in some League activity.

If you have three hours or more of free time per month and like to work with other people who share your democratic values and want to make democracy work better in your city, our county, our Bay Area, our State, and our nation, then you can find a rewarding job with the League. There are both spot projects and ongoing commitments.

Please review the following information, choose one or more opportunities, and return this questionnaire to:

LWVBAE League Opportunities, 1414 University Avenue, Suite D,
Berkeley, CA 94702 or Fax to: (510) 843-8828.

● A MENU OF LEAGUE OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMBERS ●

Please check your interests and you will be called to follow up on your specific interests and availability. Thanks.

A. The following can be done without attending meetings; and you will have a training session to inform you about “the League’s way to do it”, as well as a mentor.

- Office volunteer** for 3-hour shifts, 10 to 1 or 1 to 4, once a month or more often
- Research** for studies, publications, League history
- Phone Alert** to call members when necessary
- Record** consensus meetings
- Moderate or Chair** League or community meetings
- Tutor** elementary school reading
- Write** Pros & Cons material for local ballot measures
- Merchandise** League gifts
- Office work:** preparing mailings, organizing files
- Speak** to community groups on League topics
- Make Arrangements** for League meetings
- E-mail or Fax** state or national representatives
- Video Project** training

B. The following require more commitment, as well as attending meetings, and can lead to League leadership.

- League Study**
- Community Services**
- Administration**
- Environmental Action**
- Fund-raising**
- Mock Election** school projects
- Observe/Report** city/county/regional commission
- Voter Service**
- Membership Services**
- Special Events**
- Speak** on ballot measures
- Budget**
- Community Speaker Series**
- Edit/Layout/Proofread/Artwork** for the *Voter*

C. I’m not sure what I would like to do in the League, but I’d like to talk over the possibilities.

Here’s my suggestion for a job I’d like to do for the League. _____

The LWVBAE Board wants to be effective, involved, and caring. We believe each member of our League counts. Can we count on you? Please respond today. Thanks!

FROM: name _____

address _____

phone _____ fax _____ e-mail _____

Welcome New Members!

Most new members have been welcomed to LWVBAE by the Membership Committee and the Board through letter, phone call, and orientation meeting. However, they have not yet been welcomed officially in the *Voter*. We enthusiastically do so now. Some are returning members who moved away or into other activities in ensuing years. To these we say: "Welcome back!"

<i>Janet Alvarez</i>	<i>Thomas Mayer</i>
<i>Barbara Beno</i>	<i>Darryl Moore</i>
<i>Lara E. Bice</i>	<i>Julie Nachtwey</i>
<i>Louise Brown</i>	<i>Mary Pearl</i>
<i>Mary Canfield</i>	<i>Ursula Rolfe</i>
<i>Betty Croly</i>	<i>Virginia Simburg</i>
<i>Emma Evensole</i>	<i>Marda Stothers</i>
<i>Nancy Falk</i>	<i>Dr. Ronald J. Temple</i>
<i>Jody K. Hinshaw</i>	<i>Giselle Wainwright</i>
<i>Kristina Kai-ming Lim</i>	<i>Vanessa Wainwright</i>
<i>Claire Max</i>	<i>Trudy Washburn</i>

Tour of Vista Community College

The Vista Community College Study Committee's December tour of the Vista Community College facilities was enlightening and fun. We enjoyed meeting with staff, touring the new computer labs and new library space. All the modern improvements are recent upgrades, as the Peralta District has finally begun to make up for years of neglect. As a result, the library, for example, is a beautifully appointed, well-lit room with minimal hours of operation because there is only one full-time staff position. Its total collection at the moment consists of only 1,000 books!

At a later meeting with Peralta Chancellor Ron Temple, we reviewed possible actions the League might undertake to help focus voter attention on the District bond measure scheduled for the November ballot. We were pleased to learn of the progress that has been made in resolving all the outstanding issues which prompted Vista to seek de-annexation from the District in 1998. Everyone has high hopes that the issues will be laid to rest to celebrate Vista's 25th anniversary this spring.

-*Helene Lecar*, Vista Study Chair

Voter Services Notices

March 7, 2000, Ballot Update

State of California

Proposition 24 has been withdrawn.

County of Alameda

The following two measures will appear on the ballot. They both require a simple majority of the qualified voters voting on each measure to vote approval in order to pass and amend the County Charter. Without a simple majority of YES votes, the measure will fail.

MEASURE B: Shall the Charter of the County of Alameda be amended to provide that qualified persons with severe disabilities be exempted from civil service examination requirements for certain entry level positions in County service, with such persons acquiring regular civil service status after one year of satisfactory service?

MEASURE C: Shall the Charter of the County of Alameda be amended to eliminate the requirement that all Civil Service examinations shall have a mandatory recruitment period of 25 days or more?

LWV Smart Voter Website For March, 2000

The award-winning Smart Voter will unveil its March, 2000, Website on February 7. Point your browser to <www.smartvoter.org> to read about the candidates and issues, or use the Website's My Ballot function to see your specific candidates. No other election site gives you information about your own choices of candidates from President to central committee candidates. In addition, you can look up ballot measures, your polling place, election results, connected newspaper articles and related nonpartisan information, as well as interact with candidates and ballot proponent and opponent sites. This is State-of-the-Art Citizenship brought to you by the League of Women Voters.

-*Phoebe Watts*, Voter Service Chair

December 1999 Board Briefs

The Board meeting on 12/1 was held in the Emery Bay Village Clubhouse. Announcements included the information that *Gil Bendix* will be the alternate to *Fran Packard* on the LBNL Task Force.

An LWVBAE office open house will be held in January and a tea in honor of the founding of the LWV will be held in February.

Recommendations from the ad hoc investment committee were adopted to invest LWVBAE funds in a mix of cash, equity, and bond instruments in order to allocate risk among different areas of the market and to distribute the risk further by investing differently from those funds in the LWVB Foundation.

The election we monitored for the UCB Recreational Sports went smoothly. We haven't heard yet from the ASUC about their election plans.

A special *Voter* mailing will be made in January to give members information about the March California elections. *Eloise Bodine* and *Jane Coulter* will take on the job of training, scheduling, etc., those persons who will be speaking on election matters for our Speakers Bureau.

Our Website has been updated thanks to *Bill Chapman*.

Sherry Smith has been nominated to complete the term of the Community Services Vice President.

-*Violet Feinauer*, Board Secretary

January 2000 Board Briefs

The Board met on 1/5 at Emery Bay Clubhouse and picked up on plans for activities in the next months. These include an office open house on 1/29 and a Millennium Tea on 2/13.

Sherry Smith was elected as Community Services VP to complete the 1999-2000 term of *Peggy Anne Davis*.

The office volunteers' Procedures Manual is being updated and will soon be ready.

The Board was told that we received a gift of stock at the end of the year.

Pros and Cons and other League information about the March elections will be mailed to the office by the State League and then made available to our members. Speakers who will present Pros and Cons to community groups are being trained on 1/20.

The week of 1/31-2/7 is being declared Voter Registration Week in Alameda County. 2/7 is the last day to register for the March election. We will write to the city councils in each of our three cities to ask that they recognize the week in like manner.

Bay Area League Day will be held on 1/28 at the First Unitarian Church in Oakland.

-*Violet Feinauer*, Board Secretary

Groundwater Resources in The East Bay

At the Nov. 8th Environmental Concerns meeting, Dr. Iris Priestaf discussed the myths and misconceptions about groundwater and recent plans by East Bay MUD to consider it as a source of municipal supply. Groundwater can be found almost everywhere (if one drills deep enough), is generally continuous (no defined boundaries), and is in constant motion (moving perhaps a foot per year). Local well water is usually clear (filtered through sand and gravel) and cool (at the mean annual air temperature-65 degrees).

From 1860 to 1930 major municipal wells in Richmond and Oakland provided local water, supplemented by thousands of private wells. Most wells shut down when EBMUD imported water from the Sierras. During the last few years EBMUD has undertaken several studies on local groundwater as a supplemental supply and on how to store imported Sierra water for emergencies.

Some of the advantages of groundwater are its automatic distribution and conveyance, large storage capacity without preempting land surface, indefinite life span, relative immunity to catastrophe, minimal evaporation, and protection from pollution.

For more information, Dr. Priestaf recommended reading Groundwater Study and Water Supply History of the East Bay Plain--Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, by Sands H. Figuers (Norfleet Consultants, Livermore, 1998).

-*Ginette Polak*, Administration VP

UNITs -(Continued from Page 1)

The first phase of the study suggested mechanisms to address five interconnected regional problems for consideration and discussion. The consensus questions listed below incorporate local league responses and suggestions on measures that would strengthen LWVBA positions. There are three multi-part questions: one on regional planning; the second on regional governance, structure and authority; and the third on funding for regional planning and governance. Each question set proposes a package of measures and actions that, taken together, would strengthen the League's ability to promote change and solve some of these pervasive problems.

Consensus Questions - Updating LWVBA Positions

Question I: What measures to promote compact development associated with a viable transit system and environmental protection should LWVBA support to achieve these objectives?

Question II: As efforts to create an elected, multipurpose regional government have narrowly failed in the Legislature over the past thirty years, are there intermediate steps LWVBA should promote to make the existing system of regional planning and governance work better?

Question III: What actions should LWVBA positions support to ensure adequate funding for regional needs and to discourage profligate use of land, energy and air resources?

Please join us for one of the two UNITs scheduled on February 22 and 24. The Albany Public Library is wheelchair accessible, has lots of parking and is served by AC Transit a block away. Karen Nelson's home is also accessible and street parking is available. Please call me if you need a ride or would like to car pool to either UNIT.

-Jean Safir, Program VP

New Look For Our Voter

You'll note a new look for our Voter with this issue. The Board decided to honor the new year, century, and millennium with a different masthead and improved readability.

Thanks to *Marylyn Coons* for her design and student *Kristina Lim* for her artwork.

-Jo Ann

LWVBA News

Bay Area League Day

**State of the Region Symposium at the Historic First Unitarian Church of Oakland,
14th and Castro Streets, Oakland
Friday, January 28, 2000, 9 am to 3 pm.**

The symposium is being given wide publicity. A flyer has been sent to a large mailing list, including each member of every City Council and Board of Supervisors in the nine Bay Area counties. Local League members are urged to call their elected officials to verbally invite them to attend. Knowledgeable speakers will give state and regional perspectives on meeting the challenges to our region's quality of life posed by dysfunctional growth. The symposium promises to be an informative and memorable event.

Castro is a "frontage" street parallel to I-980. Take the 12th Street off-ramp from I-980, coming from either direction. Parking is available at the City Center Garage at 12th Street and Martin Luther King. From the BART 12th Street Station, walk approximately 4 blocks to the church.

LWVBA Program Planning, 2000-2002

Bay Area Leagues will have two topics to consider for LWVBA program planning: 1) LWVBA's customary program planning questions sent to League Presidents in the LWVBA's December 21, 1999, Post-Board Summary. They cover only the CEQA, Hazardous Materials, and Solid Waste Positions that are not being addressed in the LWVBA study. They should be included in local and/or national program planning sessions, with recommendations made on retention, updating or dropping. 2) The Consensus Questions for the Local Decisions/Regional Impacts Study should be considered at a separate meeting. They focus upon updating LWVBA positions on Regional Planning and Governance; Natural Resources - Air, Water, Land Use; Housing; and Transportation. Consensus kits have been sent to each local League president and study/program director for unit discussion and consensus. Local responses on both existing and updated positions will then be incorporated into the proposed program for 2000-2002, for approval at LWVBA's biennial Convention on May 20. Convention Kits will be in local hands a month ahead of time. -Yvonne San Jule,
LWVBA Liaison

Legislative Interviews

-(Continued from Page 1)

system that works. For her, buses (new fuel efficient ones) and light rail are the best way to move the most people economically. On state/local finance she pointed out that the state has probably returned to localities about as much as it took in the recession years, but the money has been tied to specific purposes, such as trial court funding. Most legislators, she said, are much more sympathetic to counties' needs (since they are just an arm of the state) than cities, which are flusher and can explain parcel taxes and fees to their citizens. Reform of Prop. 13 would be tough, since most people don't know where their taxes go; and while the Senate might be sympathetic, the Assembly would not. On education, she says the decade's issue is the number of students who will need higher education, including the need for seismic upgrades and new campuses. Her priorities are health care and abused and neglected children. How can we individually and as a whole take back our own health care planning? How can we care for abused kids who are wards of the court in group homes or camps, juvenile halls, mental health units, or on the streets? If the system doesn't work for them, they end up in jail. Today, truants are no longer the policeman's responsibility, but the schools' problem. Local governments bear the heavy costs for these kids as the state funds very little and the federal government, practically nothing.

State Senator Don Perata

Senator Perata said we need a single agency to control the Bay Area's rail transit operations, including BART, Caltrain and the Altamont Commuter Express. It should establish performance standards to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of both highway and transit projects and review MTC's mission and the way its governing board is structured. He also said he'd try to enforce "Smart Growth" by such means as withholding transportation funding from cities that fail to meet their own housing plans. As for education, he felt that the real need was to raise teachers' pay. A way to find funds could be rationalizing government, e.g., looking at savings at the county school administration level, which has seen a diminished need for many of its services. He will work to put a handgun licensing initiative on the ballot. He wants to see a renewed respect for the trades, and vocational education starting in the 7th grade. As he pointed out, the Bay Area has construction jobs for the next 25 years and no one to fill them. The unions are

crying for workers who have skills and understand work. His personal priority is mental health, an issue about which he feels deeply.

Action Notes

In December, Leaguers met with several members of the Berkeley City Council to urge a moratorium on commissions and an evaluation of those in existence, as well as to discuss the General Plan process. We then sent a letter to the council and Mayor with regard to commissions. During January we will be interviewing the Mayors and City council members of all three cities to exchange views on issues important to the League.

We are still looking for people willing to observe the commissions and the Rent Stabilization Board. It doesn't take a great deal of time, is interesting, and extremely valuable. We both learn of commission doings and keep an eye on the process. And with the State legislature back for the second half of its session, we urge you to sign up for the rapid response (e-mail) network on issues of particular interest to you. Call me for information.

-Lois Brubeck, Action VP

Member Invitation To LWVBAE Open House 2000 January 29, Saturday, 2 to 4 pm

Local, county, and regional officials representing the cities of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville have been invited to come to an open house on Saturday, 29 January, from 2 to 4 pm to learn what plans LWVBAE has for registering and educating voters for both the March, 2000, California Primary Election and the November, 2000, Presidential Election.

We will be promoting the many resources we have available to help voters get nonpartisan information on the elections and to educate citizens about their right to vote, including our new Smart Voter Website.

Do come and meet your elected representatives and pick up League Pros & Cons and Easy Reader publications for distribution to your friends, neighbors, and colleagues, as well as to organizations to which you belong. The Board looks forward to seeing you there.

☞ Please respond to the office (843-8824) by Thursday, January 27, to allow for arranging sufficient refreshments. ☞

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

January

25	Tue.	7:30-9 pm	Regional Impacts Study		(Safir)
26	Wed.	9 am-noon	Executive Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Price)
26	Wed.	1-3 pm	Vista Study		(Lecar)
27	Thurs.	10-11:30 am	Speaker Series: "Go-See Tour" of Columbus "Community" School		(Safir)
28	Fri.	9 am-2 pm	Bay Area League Day	First Unitarian Church, Oakland,	(San Jule)
29	Sat.	2-4 pm	Open House 2000	LWVBAE Office	(Wainwright)

February

1	Tue.	7:30-9 pm	Program Advisory Comm.		(Safir)
2	Wed.	9 am-noon	Board Meeting, Emery Bay Club House, Emeryville		(Price)
4	Fri.	Noon	March Voter Deadline	LWVBAE Office	(Bob Hawley)
7	Mon.		Last day to register for the March Primary election		
8	Tue.	2-4 pm	New Safeway Scrip Meeting	LWVBAE Office	(Brecher)
9	Wed.	3-5 pm	Program Planning: Local & Bay Area	LWVBAE Office	(Safir)
10	Thurs.	11 am	Education Committee		(Lecar)
10	Thurs.	2-4 pm	Housing Study Committee		(Adams)
10	Thurs.	7-9 pm	Instant Runoff Study Comm.		(Reynolds)
13	Sun.	3-5 pm	LWV 80th Birthday Tea Party , 1450 Hawthorne Terrace (Nelson)		
16	Wed.	9 am-noon	Action Committee		(Brubeck)
17	Thurs.	12-2 pm	Pros & Cons for March Election, Berkeley Chinese Community Church, 2117 Acton St.		(Safir)
21	Mon.		— Office Closed in honor of Presidents' Day —		
21	Mon.	7:15-9 pm	Environmental Concerns: The City's General Plan		(Bansner)
22	Tue.	11 am-1 pm	UNIT: Local Decisions/Regional Impacts	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room, Marin & Masonic Blvd, Albany	(Safir)
23	Wed.	9 am-noon	Executive Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Price)
23	Wed.	1-3 pm	Vista Study Committee		(Lecar)
24	Thurs.	7-9 pm	UNIT: Local Decisions/Regional Impacts		(Safir)

March

1	Wed.	9 am-noon	Board Meeting, Emery Bay Club House, Emeryville		(Price)
3	Fri.	Noon	April Voter Deadline	LWVBAE Office	(Bob Hawley)
7	Tue.		— Primary Election <small>Printed On Recycled Paper</small>		
9	Thurs.	2-4 pm	Housing Study Committee		(Adams)

