

# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY  
and EMERYVILLE



1414 University Avenue, Suite D, Berkeley, CA 94702-1509 Tel. 510/843-8824

President: Nancy Bickel

February, 2002

Editor: Jean Safir

## STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION Tuesday, March 5, 2002

### Be sure to vote

- 6 State measures [see page 5]
- EBRPD Parcel Tax [see page 4]
- Democratic primary for CA Assembly [see p. 7]
- Final vote for Alameda Co. Bd. Of Education  
Dist.#1: Jacki Fox Rubi vs. Incumbent Wiggins

### Help improve elections

#### Be an election official

You can sign up with a friend to share a shift

- Help us register voters
- Explain ballot measures to voters as a speaker
- Speakers briefing on ballot pros & cons
- Pros and cons meeting for members & friends

**Call the LWVBAE office at 843-8824 to  
sign up for election services**

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## CONFRONTING RACISM CONVERSATION—A GOOD START

More than a hundred diverse local residents came together at the League-sponsored "Community Conversation on Confronting Racism and Finding Common Ground for Building a Better Community" on Saturday, November 10. The group included 17 League members and several local elected officials and city and school staffers. Their response was overwhelmingly positive after five hours of one-on-one and small group discussions.

Roberto Almanzan and Lauren A. Greene, of Roberto Almanzan Associates, both experienced professional facilitators, served as the lead co-facilitators of the meeting. They worked with 22 experienced volunteer facilitators drawn from the Berkeley Dispute Resolution Service, the Conciliation Forum of Oakland, Roberto Almanzan Associates, the League of Women Voters and other groups.

### New understanding and changes

Many participants said that they now understood more about the painful impact of racism in the community and on their fellow participants and themselves. Several commented that Berkeley thinks of itself as liberal, but turns a blind eye and ear to the remnants of racism in the community and has not made a real or successful commitment to achieving true equity and equality. At least in part as

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(**Confronting Racism** -Continued from Page 1)

a result of their new experience and understanding, many said they committed themselves to making at least small changes in their own behavior and to extending their activism to make changes in the larger community.

### **New sense of community**

One participant observed that she was amazed at how quickly she and the other members of her small discussion group became a real community and how strongly she felt she was losing something when the groups dissolved. Others seemed to share this new sense of community, since many said and wrote that their small groups planned to keep in touch, to meet for potluck meals or even a book discussion group. At least one group has already met and plans future meetings.

### **Requests for follow-up meetings**

Most participants urged future follow-up meetings, but they had very different ideas of what those follow-up meetings should be. Their suggestions opened up many possible paths for the future for the League, the co-sponsors and the participants. Many said they planned to follow-up in their private lives, for example, by challenging the stereotypes and racial assumptions of others and through new or continued work with other community groups or organizations.

The League was helped in this effort by the support of many others including financial support from *In Dulce Jubilo* and practical and moral support from: the Berkeley Alliance, a coalition of the City, the University and the Berkeley Schools; the City of Berkeley's Young Adult Project; AJOB, Asians for Job Opportunities in the Bay Area; Father George Crespino; East Bay Asian Youth Center; Darryl Moore, Trustee, Peralta Community College District; Terry Doran, President, Berkeley Board of Education; Mayor Shirley Dean, City of Berkeley and Sheila Jordan, Superintendent, Alameda County Office of Education.

The League has published a short report on the meeting. Please call the office at 843-8824 and ask for a copy if you would like more details.

-Nancy Bickel, President

## **President's Column**

### **Confronting Racism: The Next Step**

As we go to press in early January, we are exploring follow-up options to the Community Conversation. At the same time, our experiences in working on the meeting and at the meeting itself has intensified our awareness of how big a role racism still plays in all the social and political problems that we study and lobby on. This renewed awareness will inform our activities in many different ways. In our League activities this spring we hope to develop new working relationships with the people and groups who joined us in the Community Conversation and who worked with us to make the meeting a success.

**Collaborations:** The League needs to expand its collaborations with like-minded groups and work hard and continuously to build strong new coalitions with community groups and individuals. Working with others will, we hope, help us be more effective in bringing about positive change.

**Good Voting Practices and Systems, an LWVBAE issue for emphasis this year:** Election Services outreach for the March and November elections will expand services to new groups, to classes of new Americans, to organizations in South and West Berkeley. In addition to keeping boxes of voter registration forms stocked all over town, we plan to add some in-person registration efforts. We will publicize and take advantage of the excellent League Smart Voter website and other methods to help students register, get information and vote. In addition to distributing Pros and Cons and the Easy Reader Voting Guide in English; we will distribute the Easy Reader Voting Guide in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese and Russian and hope to alert more voters to the LWVC website election information in English and other languages.

**Juvenile Justice, Community Colleges, Housing:** These recently studied and adopted League positions are very relevant to the social and economic success of individuals with low incomes and of varied racial and ethnic backgrounds. We will pursue these areas vigorously and do outreach and collaboration with groups that include and that work closely with people who are directly affected by issues in these areas.

-(Continued on Page 7)

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome New Members

*Wise E. Allen John Gooding  
Diamera Bach Glenda Ruben*

We're sad to report the death of *Mary LeCron Foster*, a League member for 16 years.

- *Ginette Polak*, Membership Director

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## November & December DONATIONS

### to General Fund

<i>Robert Arnold</i>	<i>Dorothy Lindheim</i>
<i>Ellen Barth</i>	<i>Madeline Mixer</i>
<i>Mary Friedman</i>	<i>Clara Pellegrino</i>
<i>Edith Gladstone</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Bruce Harris</i>	<i>Lloyd &amp; Lassie Ulman</i>
<i>Richard Kassis</i>	<i>Andrea Washburn</i>
<i>Yvonne Koshland</i>	<i>Doris White</i>
<i>Virginia Laurence</i>	<i>Lessly Wikle</i>
<i>Helene Lecar</i>	

### to Foundation

<i>Robert Arnold</i>	<i>Virginia Laurence</i>
<i>Gilbert Bendix</i>	<i>Evelyn Light</i>
<i>Virginia Blackledge</i>	<i>Patricia Pope</i>
<i>William &amp; Peggy Ann Davis</i>	<i>Beth Springston</i>
<i>Doris Fine</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Mary Friedman</i>	<i>Barbara Stern</i>
	- <i>Evelyn Light</i>

NOTE: Names in italics are LWV members

## SPEAKER SERIES

Thursday, February 14, 12 noon

Albany Public Library, Edith Stone Room  
1247 Marin Avenue, Albany

*Jim Lindsay* and David Greene, each well-qualified to speak on "Instant Runoff Voting," will address us on Thursday, February 14. Mr. Greene will tell us the status of IRV in the cities of San Francisco and Berkeley, as well as elsewhere in the US. For instance, IRV is on the Alaska State ballot this year. *Mr. Lindsay* will describe the mechanics and advantages of IRV and, with attendees' participation, will conduct a mock election using this system.

Both speakers have an abiding interest in this voting process. Mr. Greene, an Oakland resident, is East Bay Chapter coordinator of Californians for Proportional Representation. *Mr. Lindsay*, a member of the Albany school board and active LWVBAE member, is technical advisor to the Center for Voting and Democracy.

LWVBAE has a local action position that reads: "Instant Runoff Voting should be used in all elections in which the final result will be a single winner." It was adopted two years ago and we have yet to develop an action program to try to implement it.

The Albany Public Library is located on Marin Avenue at Masonic, has wheel chair access and plenty of parking. Bus service on Solano Avenue is just a block away. To find the Edith Stone Room, enter the library from the lobby, turn right toward the children's librarian; the room is on your right. Bring lunch if you'd like; the League will provide fruit juice.

- *Evelyn Light*, Speaker Series Committee

## PROGRAM PLANNING FOR LEAGUE PROGRAMS NEXT YEAR

Every year, League members gather together to set the agenda for LWVBAE and LWVBA (Bay Area) for the next fiscal year. On **Wednesday, February 20, at 7:30 pm**, we will gather at **1340 Arch Street** (Eva Bansner's home) to do just that. We will review the action positions previously adopted and then form a consensus on whether we want to re-adopt them or revise them, based on a new study to be undertaken next year. In addition, we will have an opportunity to also review our national positions and send in recommendations to the LWVUS convention, to be held next summer. PLEASE JOIN US to take part in this important policy-making effort to help guide League activities in the coming year.

## **SPEAKERS BRIEFING FOR MARCH ELECTION**

**January 31, 7:30 p.m., LWVBAE Office  
1414 University Ave., Suite B**

Have just a few hours to contribute to improving the election process? Consider the Speakers Bureau. Explaining the ballot measures to voters is one of our most rewarding activities. This election we have only 7 ballot measures to study and explain, so it's a good opportunity to practice and see how you like it.

No specialized knowledge or skills are needed. We provide you with a full explanation of each measure and tips on how to give an effective presentation. Two speakers can work together to make the presentation livelier and easier for each. You can decide to speak to just one or two groups — or many.

- *Eloise Bodine, 845-0974*

## **PROS AND CONS MEETING FOR MARCH 5 ELECTION**

On Tuesday, February 19, at 12:30 pm, in the LWVBAE office, one of our own newly trained volunteers will guide us through the March 5 ballot measures. Come with your friends and neighbors, and with lots of questions.

## **A.S.U.C ELECTION — COMING SOON —**

The Associated Students of the University of California (A.S.U.C.) will hold their annual election for student offices on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 9, 10, and 11. The League will serve as consultants to the A.S.U.C. for the twenty- third time!

This is an interesting and worthwhile League activity. Students have a heightened interest in the election process after last year's national election. There should be many opportunities to spread the League's good government message and to listen to the concerns of the students. And it is a major fund-raiser for us.

Please save the dates on your 2002 calendar. We will need many volunteers.

- *Jane Coulter, A.S.U.C. Election Chair*

## **PRECINCT WORKERS NEEDED**

The County Registrar of Voters, Brad Clark, has informed us that many more precinct workers are needed for the March 5 election. If you can work a normal 12 hour shift, or if you can arrange with a friend to split a normal shift between you, please call 272-6933 to register and get more information.

## **MEASURE K: EAST BAY REGIONAL PARK DISTRICT PARCEL TAX**

This would raise \$1 per month per single family home and 69 cents per month per apartment unit. It would expire after 12 years and would be used for maintenance and for new park and trail openings, with a reserve for emergencies and unplanned opportunities. The Bay Area League supports this measure and has signed the ballot argument. □ For more information on this and other ballot measures, see: Smart Voter website: [www.Smartvoter.org](http://www.Smartvoter.org)

LWVC website: <http://ca.lwv.org>

## **NEW RULES FOR THE MARCH 5 PRIMARY ELECTION**

In the March, 2002, statewide primary election, Californians will be operating under rules that are different from those used in the last statewide primary.

We will be functioning under a "modified" closed primary system. This permits an individual who is unaffiliated with a party ("declines to state") to request a ballot for a specific political party — if that political party has established rules that allow unaffiliated voters to vote in their party. If the unaffiliated voter does not request such a ballot, he or she will receive a ballot with nonpartisan offices and measures only.

The American Independent, Democratic, Republican and Natural Law parties are allowing voters who decline to state their affiliations to request their ballots in March. To affiliate with a party, or to change party affiliation or address, voters must re-register by February 19. That is also the last day for new voters to register for the March, 2002 primary. To register or to re-register, go to your local fire station, City Hall, public library or the League office. (Call office for open hours).

League members who want to register voters at an event or public place, or who want to help with Voter Service in any way, should call the League office.

- *Phoebe Watts, Election Services V.P.*

## State Ballot Propositions -- For Election On Tuesday, March 5, 2002

<u>Number</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Summary</u>
40	California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks, and Coastal Protection Act of 2002 **	This measure allows the state to sell \$2.6 billion of general obligation bonds to conserve natural resources (land, air, and water), to acquire and improve state and local parks, and to preserve historical and cultural resources.
41	Voting Modernization Act of 2002**	This measure allows the state to sell \$200 million in general obligation bonds for updated voting systems.
42	Transportation Funding: Sales and Use Tax Revenues	This measure places in the State Constitution those provisions of current law that require that, from 2003-04 through 2007-08, gasoline sales tax revenues be used for specified state and local transportation purposes.
43	Right to Have Vote Counted**	This measure amends the Constitution to explicitly state that every vote cast in accordance with state law shall be counted, thus affirming in the Constitution the right of the voter to have his/her vote counted.
44	Insurance Fraud	This measure requires the Board of Chiropractic Examiners to revoke for ten years the license of a chiropractor who is convicted for a second time, or is convicted of multiple counts in a single case, of various specified offenses, including insurance fraud.
45	Legislative Term Limits. Local Voter Petitions**	This measure allows local voters to petition the Secretary of State to permit their incumbent Senator or Assembly Member who is termed-out to run for reelection to that same office at the next election or elections (in the case of the Assembly), thereby allowing the legislator to serve up to an additional four years in office.

\*\* These are measures supported by the League of Women Voters of California.

Source: Legislative Analyst, State of California:

<[www.ca.gov](http://www.ca.gov)> Then Search for "LAO March 2002" to access full text

## League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville

## FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2000, through June 30, 2001

## FUND BALANCES

Fund	Balance 7/1/00	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 6/30/01
General Fund*	75546	47394	46915	76025
Tribute Fund	5321	670	582	5409
Endowment Fund	42100	0	0	42100
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>122967</b>	<b>48064</b>	<b>47497</b>	<b>123534</b>

\*General Fund includes Current Operating Fund, Reserve Fund, Lease Deposits and Miscellaneous Assets.

## COMBINED ASSETS

Assets and Liabilities	On 7/1/00	Increase (Decrease)	On 6/30/01
Union Bank Checking	3168	-47	3121
Combined Money Market Funds	31413	5889	37032
Fidelity Fund	29105	-3424	25681
Fidelity Balanced Fund	32500	2194	34694
Fidelity International Growth Fund	27568	-5754	21814
Other Assets*	2008	49	2057
Year End Liabilities	-2795	1660	-1135
<b>Fund Balances</b>	<b>122967</b>	<b>567</b>	<b>123534</b>

\*Other Assets include stamps, post office deposit, lease deposit and equipment value

- Respectfully Submitted, Thomas M. Coulter, Treasurer

## League of Women Voters of Berkeley Foundation

## FUND BALANCES

	Balance 7/1/2000	Balance 6/30/2001	CHANGES	
Checking Account	\$ 147	\$ 901	Contributions	\$ 4,335
Money Market	6,386	1,629	Investments	- 4,821
AmerCent. Income/Growth	36,298	32,306	to LWVBAE Expenses	- 8,562
AmerCent. Balanced	<u>19,504</u>	<u>18,433</u>	Other Expenses	<u>- 18</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 62,335</b>	<b>\$ 53,269</b>	<b>DECREASE</b>	<b>\$ -9,066</b>

- Respectfully Submitted, Sarah Miyazaki, Treasurer

(President's Column - Continued from Page 2)

We plan to organize or cosponsor meetings on issues raised in our recent study of the Peralta Community College District. One goal will be to get our fellow Peralta District Leagues, Piedmont, Oakland and Alameda, to adopt our position by concurrence, as soon as possible after we adopt our position at annual meeting.

Following up on the publication of our widely praised Report on Housing in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville and the positive responses of our three local city councils and staffs to our letters on their housing elements, the Housing Action Group will be working with other groups to identify effective ways to foster more low and moderate income housing in our three communities.

**Member Participation:** To expand our outreach and build new coalitions, we need our members; we need you. If you have only a few hours to give, please plan to use them to register some voters, give out Pros and Cons or Easy Reader Voter Guides in your neighborhood or workplace or at a public event. You belong to other organizations. Would some of them be appropriate co-sponsors of an event or collaborators on a project? Call the office to volunteer or to speak with me directly about your idea.

-Nancy Bickel, President

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## WATER ISSUES:

### Storm drains and urban runoff

Urban water runoff doesn't get much public attention, yet permits given to private companies and public entities to comply with the 1972 U.S. Clean Water Act are the main determiners of water quality.

So says Jonathan Kaplan, the San Francisco "Baykeeper," who spoke at the LWV of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville "Environmental Concerns" November 14, 2001 meeting. WaterKeepers is an organization that patrols the Bay, rivers and delta, and keeps tabs on the governmental regulators who aren't always so diligent in their oversight. Jonathan spoke about many factors that affect water quality in the SF Bay.

See our website for a full write-up of this most interesting talk.

## PAYING FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION WHOSE JOB IS IT?

Saturday, February 23, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Ocean View Elementary School

Multi-Purpose Room.

Where does the money for our local schools come from? Why is it always a struggle to fund education? How do we get more for California kids?

Join us in Albany on Saturday, February 23, from 3 - 5:30 p.m. as we explore how K-12 public education is funded.

We will open with a forum conducted by Kevin Gordon, member of the Education Coalition and Executive Director of California Association of School Business Officials (CASBO), who will guide us through the past and present of public school funding. We will explore how past legislative decisions have affected the current money available, and what we, as voters and activists, can do to effect changes.

After a brief intermission, the forum will be followed by a candidates' debate among the candidates for the 14th Assembly District, a position currently held by Dion Aroner and soon to be vacated. Candidates include Dave Brown, Loni Hancock and Charles Ramsey. After learning about the funding process during the forum, we will be well prepared to ask the tough questions of these candidates on this important issue of education funding.

Co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville (LWVBAE), SchoolCARE (Schools and Citizens of Albany to Rescue Education), Albany Education Foundation (AEF), Albany Teachers' Association (ATA), Albany PTA Council, Cornell Elementary PTA, and other Albany site PTAs to be announced.

Karen Carlson-Olson, 524-7004

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

## January

25 Fri. 9:30a-2:30p Bay Area League Day Pier One, SF  
 28 Mon. 4-6p Education Committee 2310 Ward St. *Wallach, 848-6893*  
 30 Wed. 11:45a Speaker Series Committee LWVBAE Office *Light, 849-3834*  
 31 Thurs. 7:30p Election Speakers' Briefing LWVBAE Office *Bodine, 845-0974*

## February

6 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*  
 8 Fri. 4pm Deadline for March VOTER LWVBAE Office *Safir, 524-9088*  
 11 Mon. 7:15p Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch Street *Bansner, 849-2154*  
 14 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series Albany Public Library *Light, 849-3834*  
 Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany  
 14 Thurs. 7-9p Housing Action Group Call for details *Safir, 524-9088*  
 19 Tue. LAST DAY TO REGISTER FOR MARCH 5 PRIMARY ELECTION  
 19 Tue 12:30-2p Election Pros & Cons Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bodine, 845-0974*  
 20 Wed. 7:30p Program Planning for National, Bay Area and Local Leagues  
 1340 Arch Street *Bickel, 526-4055*  
 21 Thurs. 7-9p Action Committee 1419 Grant St. *Brubeck, 526-5139*  
 23 Sat. 3:00-4:15p Forum on Education Financing Carlson-Olson, 524-7004  
 4:30-5:30p Assembly Candidates' Debate  
 Ocean View School Multipurpose Room, 1000 Jackson St., Albany  
 25 Mon. 4-6p Education Committee 2310 Ward St. *Wallach, 848-6893*  
 25 Mon. 7-9p LWVUS International Trade Statement discussion  
 New Orinda Library on Camino Pablo *Safir, 524-9088*

## March

5 Tue. 7a-7p STATEWIDE PRIMARY ELECTION *Watts, 525-6614*  
 6 Wed. 4-6p Board Meeting LWVBAE Office *Bickel, 526-4055*  
 8 Fri. 4pm Deadline for April VOTER LWVBAE Office *Safir, 524-9088*  
 11 Mon. 7:15p Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch Street *Bansner, 849-2154*  
 14 Thurs. Noon Speaker Series Albany Public Library *Mendell, 843-8824*  
 Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany



# Paying for Public Education: *Whose Job Is It?*

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LEARN HOW OUR K-12 SCHOOLS ARE FUNDED

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**Saturday, February 23, 3:00 - 5:30 p.m.**  
**Ocean View Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room**  
**1000 Jackson Street, Albany**  
Parking is limited - Please carpool FREE childcare provided

## **Forum: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Don't miss this valuable opportunity to learn from Kevin Gordon, of the *Education Coalition* and Executive Director of *California Association of School Business Officials*, who will concisely and effectively explain state-level funding for K-12 schools, and point us toward realistic strategies for getting more money "in the pot".

Topics Include:

- \$ Public school funding - past and present
- \$ Legislative decisions affecting the current money available
- \$ What we, as voters and activists, can do to effect change

## **Candidates' Debate: 4:30 - 5:30 p.m.**

Candidates for the California Assembly 14<sup>th</sup> District seat:

Dave Brown (D)    Loni Hancock (D)    Charles Ramsey (D)

Use what you've learned about how the State affects our local schools to quiz the candidates. Let them know what education means to you and how you vote. Learn what they intend to do for our schools.

*Moderated by the League of Women Voters of BAE*

**California expenditures per student rank 38<sup>th</sup> in the nation.**  
**State and Federal laws mandate programs that they don't fully fund.**  
**How can we get more money for our schools?**

### **Working together to sponsor this event:**

Albany Education Foundation, Albany High School PTA, Albany Middle School PTA, Albany PTA Council, Albany Teachers' Association, Cornell Elementary PTA, League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany and Emeryville, Marin Elementary PTA, Ocean View Elementary PTA, SchoolCARE (Schools and Citizens of Albany to Rescue Education)

Committee: Amy Tick    Karen Larson    Karen Carlson-Olson    Karen McKeown    Joan Larson  
Contact: Karen Carlson-Olson    524-7004    [hao\\_kco@pacbell.net](mailto:hao_kco@pacbell.net)