

THE V O T E R

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE

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President: Doris Fine

March, 1999

Editor: Bob Hawley

City Conversations With Berkeley Officials

Our series of "city conversations" continues in March with introductions to the city's new so-called 'one-stop' customer service centers. On March 9, League interviewer *Doris Nassiry* will talk with Fran David, director of Finance, and ask her to describe the city's new finance center and the permit service center. Fred Medrano, director of Health and Human Services, will then discuss his agency's services in their new 6th Street location and how they relate to youth and recreation services.

On March 16, we will visit the new 'neighborhood' service centers and talk with Weldon Rucker, Deputy City Manager. These centers are our fire stations, park and recreation centers and senior centers. City Manager Jim Keene will appear on both programs to explain how we pay for these services, and how effective they are in meeting our needs.

These 30-minute programs are taped in BTV's studio and broadcast on Channel 25 just before the live telecast of the Berkeley City Council meetings Tuesday evenings starting at 6:30 pm. They are rebroadcast the following Sunday at 8:30 am. Our TV crew includes *Nancy Bickel, Lois Brubeck, Doris Fine, Carol Voisin, Phoebe Watts* and *Masako Yamada*. Tapes are available for home viewing and can be checked out from the office. Please watch and give us some feedback on how we are doing.

-*Jill Martinucci*, Video Director

ASUC Elections

The annual ASUC elections are coming up. In either the first or third week of April, LWVBAE volunteers are needed to assist with the election (see Page 7).

Speaker Series Program

Medicare Reform Update

WHEN: Tuesday, March 9, 1-3 PM

WHERE: Albany Public Library
1247 Marin Ave., Albany
Edith Stone Room

SPEAKER: Joan Ward, LWV Diablo Valley

A national policy debate is currently under way concerning the problems and prospects for reforming Medicare, the nation's health insurance program for the elderly and disabled.

This meeting will be your opportunity to learn about the problems facing Medicare in the next century, as it confronts an expected dramatic growth in the elderly population, while the cost of providing adequate health care keeps rising. We will also hear about the prospects for changing the way the system operates, such as cutting payments to hospitals, doctors and other providers, raising the eligibility age from 65 to 67, raising payroll taxes and adopting a "voucher" or "premium support" plan. You will have a chance to ask lots of questions, because our speaker and discussion leader, *Joan Ward*, has been trained by the League to help inform the public on this urgent matter.

Those who may have missed the League's Public Forum on February 20 will especially want to hear this report on the current recommendations being considered in Washington. We will also learn what actions the League is taking at the national level to influence the outcome of the national debate. **BE SURE TO JOIN US!**

For further information, call the League office or *Jean Safir*.

President's Message

"We have a moral obligation to build more and better housing."

These are the words of John Landis, professor of urban and regional development, UC Berkeley. Professor Landis delivered the keynote address at the recent Bay Area League Day, January 30. According to Prof. Landis' studies, the Bay Area will need 30,000 new housing units every year over the next 20 years to accommodate our growing population. The costs of failing to address this need, he said, will include longer, more congested commute times for workers, higher housing costs, and both less family time and less disposable income for homeowners and renters, as the price of housing as a percentage of income goes up. In addition, homelessness and its accompanying problems will increase.

Professor Landis believes our communities need much better planning both at the local and the state level, and he urged the League to support a more integrated approach. Future planning, he advised, should concentrate on building up the downtown areas of our cities, encouraging small local builders of 3-4 units, and improving public transportation.

LWVBAE is currently engaged in two studies that bear on the issues of housing and planning. Our local study is concerned with the needs for more affordable housing in our communities, while the Bay Area study is looking at ways local land use decisions affect housing and transportation within the region.

While our state and national programs, particularly their emphases on action, are vital, it is local and regional studies such as the ones under way that can have a real bearing on our quality of life. If you are concerned about whether your children and grandchildren will be able to live and work in the Bay Area, you may want to learn more about housing and land use planning.

Make a belated New Year's resolution: Check the calendar for times and places of our local housing and Bay Area regional studies, and GET INVOLVED IN LEAGUE.

Board Briefs

At its February 3 meeting, the Board:

- accepted by consent minutes and financial statements;
- accepted with regret the resignation of *Doris Maslach* from the Board;
- discussed and tabled a policy on public statements;
- decided to keep office open Monday-Friday for 3 hours, including noon-1 PM;
- voted to recommend a dues raise to \$50 (since LWVUS dues will be raised in July 1999) and recommended a proposed Budget for 1999/2000 for member approval at Annual Meeting;
- approved UNIT recommendations for State LWV Program for 1999/2001;
- ratified a letter to local Leagues in California urging support for a restudy of education;
- ratified a letter to Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board commending their articles in the Voice;
- suggested possibilities for Annual Meeting speaker;
- heard reports on governmental plans and actions in Emeryville, Albany, and Berkeley;
- heard reports on local LWV activities;
- reviewed LWVBA Day on January 30 re: Housing;
- encouraged everyone to attend upcoming LWV and community meetings.

-*Ginette Polak*, Acting Secretary

Call To LWVC Convention: May 14- 16

The LWVC will hold its 1999 convention May 14-16 in San Jose. This is a great opportunity to watch the League in action. LWVBAE will be sending 8 delegates, plus there are opportunities to serve as convention helpers. Anyone interested, please contact the League office. The convention will be hosted by the Santa Clara County League at the DoubleTree Hotel.

-Doris



Donors Through January

General Fund

Merle and Addy Brodsky

Joanne Kelly

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Membership

Lucie Buchbinder has been elected housing chair for the League of Women Voters Bay Area. *Lucie* has had wide experience in the housing field, both as a volunteer and as a paid employee. She currently works part-time for the Christian Church Homes as a Residence Initiatives Specialist. Our congratulations!

Sally Severance is recovering (not nearly fast enough for *Sally*) from an illness that has kept her housebound for some time. We miss you, *Sally*, and wish you a speedy and complete recovery!

An opportunity to better know each other and the work of the League is being offered to members new to LWVBAE and those who are "thinking about" becoming members. The LWVBAE office, Suite D, 1414 University Avenue in Berkeley, will open at 9:30 am on Saturday, March 20, with presentations by League officers and open discussion from 10 until closing promptly at noon. Please let us know that you will attend by using our e-mail address, FAX or telephone numbers shown in the *Voter* header on Page 1. Please respond by Wednesday, March 17, whether or not you are Irish. Happy Saint Patrick's Day.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of John E. Blacklidge who died on January 17, 1998. John was the retired rector of St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Albany and a real estate broker in Berkeley. He is survived by his wife, *Virginia Blacklidge*, M.D., daughter *Mary Sivila*, son *Luke A. Blacklidge*, and one granddaughter.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Membership Chairman

A Recently Received Letter

Dear League Members,

My name is Stephanie Nixon and I was an intern for this League during the month of January. I would like to thank you all for welcoming me into your organization and offering me such a wonderful learning experience.

When I first heard that I needed an internship in order to graduate, I decided that I wanted to find an internship that I would really enjoy. This is what I found in my internship here at the League of Women Voters, and I couldn't have asked for a better experience.

Observing all of the different meetings helped me learn how the League works and how it relates to the rest of the community. I was also glad that I could help out in the office. It is very important to me to give back as much as I have taken from this experience.

It amazed me how much the League could accomplish and how many issues it could address as a volunteer organization. I can't thank you enough for including me in your work. I can guarantee my future membership in the League wherever I end up. I hope I can contribute my time and experience just as you all have.

Sincerely, Stephanie Nixon

News Brief From The Nominating Committee

We are seeking a treasurer for LWVBAE for next year - someone who is interested in helping to keep the League's financial house in order. The treasurer can be one person or a team who will share the task and make a report to the Board at least every two months.

Please let us know if you will help the League by doing this job, or if you have a friend or relative with an interest in bookkeeping or accounting who might help fill this position. Please call one of the committee members listed below with any ideas you may have.

Mim Hawley, Chair

Eleanor Cox

Louise Larson

Winnie McLaughlin

Jean Safir

Local Action / Regional Impacts

Next Meeting of Study Group

Thursday, February 25, at 7:30 PM

The next meeting of the "Regional Impacts" study group will begin to focus more directly on the way local governments relate to regional agencies. In particular, we will begin the process of interviewing our respective City Council members who sit on the executive boards of such agencies as the Association of Bay Area Governments, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. In addition, every city has a city council member who sits on its county's Congestion Management Agency, and we will want to talk to these council members also.

The purpose of these interviews will be to find out how well each representative feels the regional agencies are fulfilling the needs of the region as well as those of their local communities in areas such as transportation, housing, environmental protection and fiscal integrity. Are there regional leaders among our local representatives? Would the aggregate of local needs be better met by changing the way regional agencies operate?

Please join us if any of these questions or issues strikes you as interesting. Please call the League office (843-8824) to let us know you are coming, and for the meeting location and directions. And if you can't make this meeting but would like to join us for the next one, **Thursday, March 25**, we would also like to hear from you.

-Jean Safir, Program VP

EdSource Conference: March 26

Student Achievement: What influences it? What can we do to improve it? With a focus on middle and high school students, this year's conference will examine some of the powerful influences that shape student motivation to achieve during the teenage years.

The conference will take place at the PG&E Learning Center in San Ramon, starting at 8:30 am. Cost is \$55 for members of EdSource's founding organizations, AAUW, PTA and LWV. For more information call the EdSource office at (650) 857-9604, or contact LWVBAE's Education Director, *Lois Brubeck*.

Tracking Education Initiatives

Berkeley is trying to address our children's education needs on many fronts, and members of the League's Education Committee are urging and tracking progress. In May, 1998, recognizing that success in school depends on early childhood development, Mayor Dean announced a prenatal through preschool Healthy Child Initiative and hopes to find funding by June. Proposition 10, the new cigarette tax, will provide money for the same prenatal to age 5 group, but we don't yet know when the funds will be available. A county steering committee has been established to research needs and a nine-member county commission should be appointed in about six months.

With the energetic support of Chris Lim, BUSD's new associate superintendent, and the backing of the school board, a fully fleshed-out literacy plan is in place. Long advocated by the League, efforts are focused on assuring literacy by the third grade, through expanding teacher training and providing "reading recovery" programs for the lowest achievers. We are working with a committee to assure that the programs actually go forward, that teachers have the community support needed, whether that be in terms of funding, materials, parental and community backing, or volunteers. Anyone interested in working on such community involvement would be welcome and should contact me.

League members active in Concerned Citizens for Berkeley High contributed to a statement prepared for the School Board urging recruitment and retention of highly qualified and diverse teachers. Anticipating the principal's proposals for changes at the school, Concerned Citizens also urged that such new programs be carefully evaluated as to their success. The new principal, Teresa Saunders, at the following Board meeting, presented proposals which aim to assure that assistance, counseling, and academic programs are in place for ninth graders so that all students can succeed at the school. At the same time, an "opportunity program" would provide a safety net and GED preparation for those who by 10th grade need such an alternative.

Do come to our Education Committee meetings and become informed or contribute ideas on these issues. We welcome you.

-Lois Brubeck, Education Director



A 21st Century Budget Process For California, Recommendations of the California Citizens Budget Commission, 1998 (94 pages)

The California Citizens Budget Commission, a broad-based, non-partisan organization formed in 1933 by the non-profit, non-partisan Center for Governmental Studies, studied the budget for four years and proposed specific changes which, the Commission believes, could reform and improve the budgeting process and eliminate delays in the formation and adoption of the State budget.

The budget process has undergone many changes, particularly since the 1930s when the state economy was based primarily upon agriculture. Since then, the state has undergone several major economic ups and downs, federally-mandated programs, increased population and demands for services, statutory and constitutional revisions, such as Proposition 13, and many other voter initiatives. Proposition 13 requires a two-thirds vote of the legislature to raise taxes and many of the voter initiatives require that funds be earmarked for specific programs or projects. It has been said that such "ballot box budgeting" limits the ability of the Legislature and the Governor to adjust to changing times. In addition, the exemption and tax credits which require only a majority vote by the Legislature to adopt, but a two-thirds vote to eliminate, also act as expenditures.

The magnitude of budgeting for a state like California (which has the largest state budget in our nation) can be grasped when we read: "If California were a nation, rather than a state, its economy would be seventh largest in the world."

The Commission's report has sections on the historical perspectives of the budget and budgeting process in California, as well as information on state income and expenditures. There is also an extensive bibliography, including WebSite. This review will not detail any of that information, but will summarize the Commission's recommendations and some of the reasons for them. Some recommendations would require a Constitutional amendment and others could be adopted by statute.

The recommendations are divided into four main categories:

1. The budget should be balanced more rigorously;
2. A majority vote should govern the budget process;
3. The budget process should be comprehensive, accessible and long-term oriented;
4. The budget process should have accountability.

Some of the proposals have been combined in this review to save space. The Commission's reasons for the recommendations have been summarized and follow the recommendations.

5. **The budget should be balanced, with authorization for the Governor to make necessary reductions if the legislature doesn't act. External debt borrowing to finance general fund deficits should be prohibited. Long-term debts (more than five years) should be limited to capital items. Off-budget expenditures and borrowing should be prohibited.**

At the present time, only the Governor's budget as presented to the legislature must be balanced, but there is no requirement that the proposed budget be signed by either the Governor or the legislature, nor that an adopted budget be balanced. Funds from the 300 existing earmarked funds are sometimes used to balance the budget during a fiscal crisis. Extensive capital borrowing can lead to higher interest costs and create burdens on business and future generations. Thirty-two states now have balanced budgets and California requires that counties and school districts have balanced budgets. While the constitution prohibits the creation of a debt exceeding \$300,000 without a popular vote, the State Supreme Court has ruled that the State could exceed this amount if funds could be repaid within a short period. In 1994-95, financial institutions imposed conditions on lending money to the State. This required automatic budget reductions. Off-budget State expenditures and borrowing conceal the State's true financial picture because they have not been shown in the accounting of State debt and are a form of deficit spending. An example of off-budget expenditures occurred in 1991-92 when the State provided off-budget loans to schools which were to be repaid from K-12 school funds authorized by Proposition 98.

-(Continued on Page 6)

Budget Process (continued from Page 5)

A state court ruled that these funds represented appropriations that raised the Proposition 98 funding requirement for subsequent budget years.

If mechanisms were in place to keep the budget balanced, the legislature and the public would be more aware of the mid-year budget. The Governor's authority to keep the budget balanced is limited.

2. **A majority vote should govern the budget process.**

California is only one of two states requiring a two-thirds vote of each house to pass a budget act, and it also requires a similar vote to pass budget implementation bills. The super majority requirement is in the Constitution, and a Constitution Revision Commission in 1933 recommended that it remain. Some feel that the super majority requirement holds down state spending while others feel it should be eliminated because a minority can withhold votes until its funding demands are met. Thus the opponents argue that a two-thirds vote requirement is a detriment and should be eliminated along with the two-thirds vote requirement to eliminate tax exemptions. If the super majority requirement were to be eliminated, a recommendation can still be made to require a two-thirds vote to override a Governor's budget. According to the Commission, the same requirement for a majority rather than a super majority vote should be required for budget implementation (trailer) bills. As noted previously, tax exemptions should be treated as expenditures and require only a majority vote to eliminate.

Legislative sessions on the budget should begin on June 1 and end with the passage of the Budget Act. During this time, the adoption of the budget would be the only order of business.

The Joint Legislative Budget Commission should review the cumulative fiscal impact of constitution and statutory spending and revenue constraints and have the ability to recommend changes. There should also be a process whereby an outside independent body can review restrictions on the budget process, change priorities and recommend any needed modifications.

3. **The budget process should be comprehensive, accessible, and long-term oriented.**

There should be comprehensive reporting in the state budget process of all projected expenditures,

revenues and tax expenditures. The Budget Act itself should list all State expenditures and revenues from all sources and it should also contain a statement of the State's overall condition. There should be a budget summary in simple language distributed widely annually with Franchise Tax Board materials. Preparations should be made to communicate electronically with the public.

There should be a two-year budget, adopted in even-numbered years, as well as a long-term strategic spending plan with a prioritized capital outlay program. A two-year expenditure and revenue projection should also be included.

If the above recommendations were adopted, they would allow for better oversight and review by both the legislature and the public.

4. **The budget process should include program performance measures of effectiveness for all agencies and programs.**

This type of planning should also include a list of proposed elements and their costs. A mission statement, goals and objectives should be in the final Budget Act.

Prior to 1990-91, performance measures were included in the governor's budget. If the proposed recommendations were adopted, the State and the public could better assess whether resources were well-spent.

A copy of the Commission's recommendations is available in our office or from the Center for Governmental Studies, 10951 W. Pico Blvd., Suite 120, Los Angeles, CA 90064 or by Fax from (310)-475-3752.

-Lenora Young, Publications Chair

Free Recycling Guide

The 1998-99 edition of the Alameda County Recycling Guide is now available. Pick up your copy from our office now. This informative publication tells you how to recycle everything from hazardous household and automotive wastes to major appliances, and lists key telephone numbers to call for information.

ASUC ELECTION

Once again the LWVBAE is helping the ASUC run their annual election (in either the first or third week of April.) Our job is to distribute, collect and, above all, monitor the ballots. We work in 3-hour shifts, along with UC students who are responsible for the students' IDs. Someone will be calling to ask that you help by signing up for one or more shifts. Our ASUC Coordinator this year is *Sherry Smith*.

-*Lassie Ulman*, VP Community Services

RE: Parental Consent for Abortion

A GOP consultant in Los Angeles says, "America is moving slowly, very slowly, toward a pro-life position." Well, America is NOT moving toward a pro-life position but there IS a chiseling away of a woman's right to abortion. Throughout the country, legislation and public relations efforts seek to limit access under the guise of parental involvement.

Most parents hope they will be consulted when a teen faces an unplanned pregnancy. Surely the parents of Becky Bell had such hopes. Becky was a college-bound 17-year old living in Indiana, one of the first states to adopt parental consent laws. When she learned she'd need her parents' consent to obtain a safe abortion, she was afraid to disappoint her parents. She chose instead an illegal and unclean abortion to end the pregnancy. Like her pre-Roe v. Wade predecessors, she developed massive infections. Her parents admitted a high-fevered Becky to a hospital, retreated for a quick meal at a nearby restaurant and returned to find their daughter dead. Their stunned anguish at learning she had died because her access to a safe, legal abortion was blocked by a new parental consent law turned to anger and activism. They have traveled the country since that 1988 incident, arguing against laws that restrict minors' access to a safe procedure that would have allowed them to enjoy the company of their daughter and to bask in the joy of her entrance to college.

We may need their help here in California. At present, a minor does have the right to have an abortion without parental consent. But a major offensive is being mounted to change that. In the year 2000, an initiative may appear on the ballot which would require parental consent for minors seeking an abortion. Well, why not?

Shouldn't parents be involved in a minor's decision to have an abortion? In the majority of

cases, teens seeking abortions DO involve one or both parents. But in some cases, involving a parent would subject the teen to violence, other abuse, or being kicked out of the home. Or, as we saw above in the case of Becky Bell, she may fear losing their respect.

What about judicial bypass - doesn't that protect minors who come from abusive or dysfunctional homes? Judicial bypass - requiring a minor to appear before a judge, who then decides whether the minor may obtain an abortion - has been shown in other states to be a tremendous burden and a terrifying ordeal for minors. And it is the teens that already face difficult life circumstances that are subjected to this further trauma and delay in medical care.

Minors are required to get parental consent for ear piercing - shouldn't consent be required for a surgical procedure? Parental consent laws don't protect the health of minors - they jeopardize minors' safety by primarily affecting those teens that truly can't tell a parent without risking abuse. This erects barriers preventing young people from seeking important health care for fear of parental retribution. Abortion is constitutionally protected in California, and is a sensitive service (along with family planning, drug and alcohol counseling), legally held private.

What will happen if the parental consent initiative becomes law? Young women's lives will be threatened. In states where these laws have passed, attempted self-abortions and illegal abortions have increased. Teens already in difficult situations are subjected to further trauma - through parental abuse, later term abortions, and the judicial bypass experience. As abortions become more difficult to obtain, the health and safety of women are increasingly compromised.

The above questions and answers were prepared by Planned Parenthood.

Many of us have relaxed our vigilance in the mistaken belief that Roe v. Wade protects every woman's right to an abortion. That protection is being whittled away. Call or write me if you would like to be kept informed of action that is needed to keep abortion safe and available to all. My phone is 510-841-5258 or clichty@dnai.com if you have email.

-*Charlotte Lichterman*, Women's Issues Consultant

Urban Patterns for a Better Environment

On January 11 Richard Register treated the LWVBAE's Environmental Concerns committee to a world slide tour of urban designs for walkable cities that embrace natural elements.

He recalled some of his early Berkeley efforts: converting Milvia Street to a slow street between University Avenue and Cedar Street; stenciling creek locations on our paved surfaces; restoring the hidden open creeks; and instigating zoning ordinance changes to allow greenhouses in front setbacks. To counter car culture and its drain on world resources, his convertible automobile became a planter.

Recently, he has supported downtown housing with very limited spaces for parking. His vision includes an open creek with creekside housing replacing the one-story Bank of America building downtown, and a bridge building over Martin Luther King Jr. Way to service a new courthouse at the Civic Center.

His slides included eclectic examples from around the world of vital, mixed-use city building: the Viennese Hundertwasser apartments / cafes / offices / exhibit halls / terraces; Soleri's cliff side buildings near Phoenix; and Nepalese buildings with layers of different uses including terraces and rooftops as garden space. In Australia, Adelaide is restoring natural areas as context for denser redevelopment of the city, and in Brazil, Curitiba has developed a system of creekside parks and flood control spaces amidst transit-oriented development. Slides of bicycles and delivery vehicles completed the illustration of circulation alternatives in denser cities.

Anathemas to Mr. Register are repetitive single use spaces like single family subdivisions, high rise office blocks and shopping centers in seas of parking. He finds complexity and variety by attending to the "biology of space." Buildings should be designed around natural features like creeks, he claims. Solar exposure should be utilized for residential uses including roof-top gardens, while uses like theaters and storage should go in darker interior spaces. With elevators, multi-level development can bring a rich world available within pedestrian distance.

League members expressed reservations about the practicality of living in this country without a car, about mixing uses which might include hazardous materials, about getting families to live in dense city neighborhoods and about restoring creeks that are buried who-knows-how-deep.

However, Richard Register encouraged us to think about a world where more people in our centers did not mean more cars and environmental degradation but rather fewer cars and environmental restoration.

-Eva Bansner, Co-chair

Environmental Concerns Committee

Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development

The March meeting of the Environmental Concerns Committee will be:

Monday, March 8
7:15 - 9 PM
Call League office for meeting location and directions (843-8824).

Come and bring guests for an informed and lively discussion on the "hot" topic of "sustainable development."

League WebSites

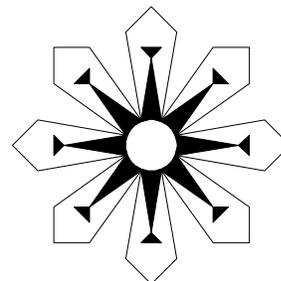
LWVUS: www.lwv.org

LWVC: www.ca.lwv.org

LWVBA: www.lwvba-CA.org

LWVBAE: home.pacbell.net/lwvbae

Our webmaster, *Bill Chapman*, has posted a great new link for "political junkies." Check out "What's New" on our site and have fun surfing with "politicaljunkie.com".



Action On Transportation

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area has become an active participant in decision-making regarding regional transportation. This past year, with LWVBA input, the direction of regional transportation has taken a major turn toward a more extensive and connected public transit network.

The beginning of the current intensified involvement of the League can be traced to the formation of the Transportation Choices Forum in early 1997. Its purpose was to educate the public on regional transportation issues and to encourage their involvement in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's (MTC) 1998 update of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). A representative of the LWVBA serves on the Forum's steering committee. A follow-up to the Forum even more directly involved in public action is the Transportation and Land Use Coalition. Its members have been very visible at MTC's meetings and successful in obtaining approval to include "100% funding for transit capital shortfalls" costing \$375 million in the Regional Transportation Plan. (LWVBA suggested "sacrificing" the Hayward Bypass, Route 238.)

Last year the Caltrain Downtown Extension seemed a hopeless cause. San Francisco's Mayor Brown's veto killed the completion of the EIR. LWVBA together with Leagues from the peninsula wrote to him urging approval. Now, a year later, the Mayor's position has turned 180 degrees and he is supporting the creation of a regional transit hub, a "Union Station," by bringing Caltrain to the site of the Transbay Terminal.

In the past the League was more of a lone voice speaking out for issues such as increased funding for public transportation and connecting land use with transportation. We are now part of a larger chorus. And to include even more people, including those who cannot attend daytime meetings, LWVBA requested that MTC televise its meetings and make tapes available for replay on public channels. There was some positive response, but no action to date. Please call, fax or e-mail your concerns to the new MTC Chair, James T. Beall, Jr. (Phone: 408/299-3924; Fax: 408/299-2038; e-mail: beall@qmgate4.bos.co.SantaClara.ca.us).

-Doris Fine, adapted from an LWVBA Voter article by Joyce Roy, LWVBA Transportation Chair

Women In Action Lobby Day

This year's WIALD will be Wednesday, April 28, 8:30 am to 3 pm. Please join our delegation for an exciting day in Sacramento. We will hear a keynote address by Delaine Eastin, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and have an opportunity to meet our representatives - Assemblywoman Dion Aroner and State Senator Don Perata. Register by April 10 and the \$45 fee will be reduced to \$35 (includes morning refreshments and lunch). Call the office for more information and a registration form.

Office Hours

Although our office hours have been shortened, a League volunteer will always be available in the office to see you or to take phone calls Monday through Friday between 12 noon and 1 PM. Phone messages may be left on our answering machine at any time.

Update On Proposition 208

Campaign finance reform in California received a further setback on January 5 when a 3-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals sent the challenges to Proposition 208 back to U.S. District Court Judge Lawrence Karlton for a final ruling. The court stated that there was nothing procedurally incorrect with Karlton's preliminary injunction against enforcing the provisions of Proposition 208. The 9th Circuit judges also made it clear that they were NOT deciding on the merits of the case. Because California will hold its primary election in early March 2000, Karlton will have to hand down his final ruling by fall of 1999 to allow the 9th Circuit to complete its review before candidates declare for the primary.

The League and its allies intend to keep the issue in the public eye and to continue pressing for campaign reform at all levels of government.

-(LWVC Update, January 25, 1999)

CALENDAR

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

February

- 22 Mon. 9 am- noon Executive Committee (*Fine*)
 22 Mon. 2- 4 pm Housing Study (*Adams*)
 25 Thurs. 7:30-9 pm Local Actions/Regional Impacts (*Safir*)

March

- 3 Wed. 9 am- noon Board Meeting So. Berkeley Library (*Fine*)
 5 Fri. 4 pm *VOTER* Deadline LWVBAE Office (*Hawley*)
 8 Mon. 7:15- 9 pm Environmental Concerns: Bay Area Alliance for Sustainable Development (*Bansner*)
 9 Tue. 1-3 pm Speaker Series: Medicare Reform Albany Library, 1247 Marin @ Masonic (*Safir*)
 11 Thurs. 3-5 pm Education Committee (*Brubeck*)
 15 Mon. 2- 4 pm Housing Study (*Adams*)
 17 Wed. 9 am- noon Action Committee (*Price*)
 20 Sat. 10 am- noon "Getting to Know the League & You" Gathering LWVBAE Office (*Cox*)
 24 Wed. 9 am- noon Executive Committee (*Fine*)
 25 Thurs. 7:30-9:30 pm Local Actions/Regional Impacts (*Safir*)

April

- 7 Wed. 9 am- noon Board Meeting So. Berkeley Library (*Fine*)
 9 Fri. 4 pm *VOTER* Deadline LWVBAE Office (*Hawley*)
 First or Third Week ASUC ELECTION UC Berkeley (*Smith*)
 28 Wed. 8:30 am-3 pm Women in Action Lobby Day, Sacramento (Office, 843-8824)

June

- 5 Sat. 9:30 am-1 pm **LWVBAE ANNUAL MEETING**
 Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda (*Safir*)

September

- 23 Thurs. 5:30-9 pm **Fall Membership Meeting: SAVE THE DATE**
 Watch for more information (*Safir*)



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to the extent allowed by law.

League of Women Voters of
Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville
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