

# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY  
and EMERYVILLE



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President: Jo Ann B. Price

May - June, 2000

Editor: Bob Hawley

## Annual Meeting Thursday, June 1, 2000 5:30 to 9:00 pm Northbrae Community Church 941 The Alameda, Berkeley

### Program

This year's annual meeting will have, not just one, but THREE, guest speakers - the City Managers of Berkeley (James Keene) and Emeryville (John Flores), and the City Administrator of Albany (Daren Fields). Their general topic will be "The City Manager's Role in the New Millennium," but this will cover a wide range of issues. For example, how does the manager's role differ in each of our three cities, with their very different histories, strengths and problems?

There will, of course, be an opportunity for questions from the floor, so come prepared.

We have changed the order of the agenda this time, so that our guests may join us for supper, followed by their presentations, questions and answers, and then our business meeting. **Be sure to call the office by Friday, May 26**, to reserve supper (\$10, which can be brought to the office, sent in or paid at the door, or you may bring your own meal) and also let us know if you need a ride.

The main elements of the business session will be (1) adopting the budget and the program planning report for 2000-2001 and (2) electing new officers to lead us in the coming year. Members will be asked to re-adopt our Local Support Positions with no changes this time, but **please bring the enclosed "Call to Annual Meeting" packet with you to the meeting.** It will help us get through the agenda most efficiently.

Supper will again be catered by Shai's Delicatessen. Everyone seemed to like their style a lot last time, and there is still time to let Shai's know if there are special things we'd like to have on the menu. So do let me know. **SEE YOU THERE!!**

-Jean Safir, Program VP

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## President's Column

## A Smaller Board? And Building Membership - Not So Easy!

So far this 1999 - 2000 League year has been a banner year of activity for LWVBAE; and as I write this, we're only 3/4 of the way through! The Board members in particular deserve praise and gratitude for fielding the demands of the community, the administrative details of local membership; the Program components of studies, UNITS, general meetings, and Speaker Series; the push-and-pull of a Presidential primary with 22 ballot measures; the pressure to increase our membership; the necessity to fulfill the requests and requirements of the Bay Area, state, and national Leagues; and the many aspects re the financing of, and budgeting for, all these activities. Before I go further, let me say it's an honor and a privilege to be able to do this for our League. However, the time required for Board responsibility has become more and more difficult for members to find in our evolving equal society, with ever greater challenges and opportunities.

As I read the LWVUS e-mail "chat room" made available to local and state presidents throughout the U.S., I find we all have much in common in terms of the difficulties facing us and our Leagues. One of the major issues is finding women and men who have the interest and time to serve on a League board. Service on a League board is a unique and wonderful experience. Very few organizations have defined their board in an equivalent "hands on" way. This is both a strength and an obstacle to finding members to fill board slots.

In an effort to begin to address this matter, our Board is proposing a bylaws change at the June Annual Meeting to decrease the number of Board members required to serve each year. Over the summer months, an ad hoc committee will review the problem, analyze it, and propose additional effective measures to achieve Board responsibility for the well-being of our organization, while requiring fewer Board participants and more members who are asked to do one or more discreet "jobs" throughout the year.

An obvious trend in our League is the member who, while busy with family, job, and/or other constraints, is willing to fulfill a one-time request, or several such non-ongoing requests in a given year.

-(Continued in next column)

## April Board Briefs

The Board met on Wednesday morning, April 5. Highlights of the meeting are as follows:

- The Board gratefully accepted a gift of stock from one of the League's members.
- The recruitment of new members is going slowly.
- A suggestion was made that we give special consideration to young working mothers who would like to be involved in current issues.
- We are searching for an Administrative Assistant. The job only requires 10 hours a week, but the person should be familiar with office procedures and equipment.
- The new eSCRIP program can be financially advantageous for our League, and only cost participating League Members a \$10.00 Registration Fee. Safeway will donate a percentage of each purchase made by registrants to the League.

-Ruth Ganong, Secretary Pro Tem

Our "Building the Future Program", instituted by LWVC at the June 1999 biennial convention and begun in August, had a due date of April 5, 2000. The main thrust of the program was to have each League increase its membership by a net 5 percent. Our Board was enthusiastic about undertaking that challenge and also committing to increasing activity in the areas of diversity, action, fund raising, voter service, and program.

We have significantly succeeded in all the areas except the 5% net membership increase. The reason is obvious. At the starting date we had 413 members, so a net increase of 5 percent would have been 21 more. In order to go forward, we first decided to contact delinquent members, offer amnesty, and then drop them if the current dues weren't received. This effort took several months and resulted in approximately 15 members being dropped. The campaign to get new members merely resulted in replacing the lost ones. We were unable to make the 5 percent net increase up to 434 members. Our official membership is currently 410.

Of course we will try again, but 7 months, from August 1999 to the end of March 2000, was not enough time for us to achieve success in this first attempt. Please continue your efforts to bring in new members. The next New and Prospective Member Orientation will be at the office on Saturday, April 29, 10 am to 1 pm. Bring a friend!

-J o A nn

## LWV of The Bay Area Convention - May 20, 2000

Delegates from the 21 Local Leagues in the nine Bay Area counties will meet in South San Francisco on May 20, to adopt a proposed budget, by-laws amendments, and a program of action and education for 2000 S 2002. The proposed program will include several updated LWVBA positions that reflect the consensus reached in the "Local Decisions/Regional Impacts Study" just completed.

LWVBAE's voting delegation, based on its membership, will consist of the president and 6 additional delegates. If you'd like to have a voice in the direction the Bay Area League takes in the next two years, let *Jo Ann Price* know. Our Board will select the delegation at its May 3 meeting. Registration is \$5.

Convention kits for the seven delegates will arrive the last week in April. In addition to the items for adoption, the kits will contain directions to the Kaiser Hospital in South San Francisco where this biennial meeting will be held.

--*Yvonne San Jule*, LWVBA Rep.

## League Registers Voters at Earth Day

Earth Day, April 22, will be celebrated in Berkeley at Civic Center Park from noon to 5 pm. Civic groups and environmental organizations have been invited to put up tables and "spread the word" about environmental issues in 2000 and beyond.

The League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville will be there to register voters, solicit members, and talk with visitors about the League's interest in, concerns for, and stands on environmental issues.

Our thanks to Eva Bansner and Gail Schickele for coordinating the League's Earth Day activities.

-*Sherry Smith*, Community Services VP

## Speaker Series

**Speaker: Eric Cohen, attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center of SF**  
**Thursday, May 18, noon to 2 pm**  
**Berkeley Chinese Community Church**  
**2117 Acton Street**

What is the most important right of citizenship? Most of us would answer "the right to vote," and most of the legal immigrants seeking to naturalize would agree. Yet many of those who applied for citizenship in 1998 or 1999 will not be able to vote in the Presidential election of 2000.

What are the circumstances that have virtually disenfranchised those who have met the arduous requirements of citizenship eligibility? What are the impediments facing the Immigration and Naturalization Service in resolving this problem? What role could the League of Women Voters play in alleviating this inequity?

Come to the May Speaker Series meeting to hear Eric Cohen, attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center of San Francisco and long-time advocate of immigrant rights, address these issues. Immigrants pursuing naturalization or recently naturalized will share their stories.

The Chinese Community Church has plenty of parking, is fully accessible and AC Transit service is just a block away.

-*Jean Safir*, Program V.P.

## Board Secretary Needed

Our 2000/1 year promises to be dynamic and productive one for LWVBAE. The slate of Directors and Officers that will be presented to the membership at our Annual Meeting in June is impressive. One opportunity is still open for someone who wishes to be a critical part of next year's Board - the position of **Board Secretary**. The Secretary's job is to take the minutes and to prepare a summary of Board actions for the "Board Briefs" section of our *VOTER*. It's a great opportunity for a new member to learn about the League, or for a long-time member interested in keeping up with League activities and actions. Please call if you're interested or have a suggestion about someone who would enjoy being an "insider" on our 2000/01 year Board.

-*Mim Hawley*, Nominating Com. Chair

## Donors Through March

### General Fund

*Robert W. Birge*      *Hugh and Kitty McLean*  
*Mary Jacobson*      *Jeanine Saperstein*  
*Doris Maslach*      *Geraldine Scalzo*

### Foundation

*Robert W. Birge*      *L. H. Chan*

## Welcome New Members

*Ruth Atkin*      *Joaquin J. Rivera*  
*Marcelle M. Baxter*      *Jennifer J. Simon*  
*Joyce Jackson*      *Jim Smith*  
*Antoine La Garde*      *Mary Smith*  
*Barbara Lee*      *Janet P. Stromberg*  
*Heather Price*      *Eve St. Martin Wallenstein*

## In Memoriam

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Michael Evan De Vos who died suddenly on Monday March 27 at North Shore at age 43. Michael leaves his parents, (Winnie McLaughlin), step-parents, daughters, grandchildren, and three siblings. He was a contractor and a winning racecar driver.

## Action Updates

**November election:** We may be seeing a mass of initiatives on the ballot. As of March 14, there were 38 petitions in circulation, 1 already qualified and 5 in the Attorney General's office.

**EdSource Conference:** A number of us attended the annual conference in March, at which speakers and panelists discussed whether California's Public Schools Accountability Act of 1999, which mandates school ranking, looks like a positive step toward improving student learning. Most felt that if the kinks were worked out and the programs set in motion were allowed to develop, we would be moving ahead, and that certainly attention was now focused on school improvement. However, they cautioned against the state's initiating programs without full funding, and the danger of the governor or term-limited legislators' trying to make school policy piecemeal. In sum, they strongly advocate that the state give less money in categorical aid (aimed at specific programs) and more for the local districts to spend as they see fit.

-*Lois Brubeck*, Action VP

## Personals

It's summer time and our members are traveling. *Prexy Jo Ann B. Price* has returned from a visit with the Sphinx and the Kings in the Valley of the Kings in Egypt. *Phyllis Menefee* has returned from New York and is on her way to France and New Hampshire. *Aune Hendrickson's* destination is north to Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. *Jean Safir* and *Lois Brubeck* are looking forward to their trip to Italy in October, and I will experience Yellowstone National Park and Jackson Hole before the leaves change color.

*Adelia Lines* is recuperating from major surgery in the Herrick Campus of Alta Bates Hospital. We are hoping along with *Adelia* that she will soon be able to return to her position as Director of the Berkeley Library.

*Karen Carlson-Olsen*, Albany activist concerning things educational, recently spoke to the AUSD Board in defense of an AUSD teacher whose contract was about to be revoked.

*Joy Carlin* favored two nominees in the best actor category at the recent Academy Awards Ceremony. Both Annette Bening and Denzel Washington were *Joy's* students at the San Francisco American Conservatory Theater twenty or more years ago.

*Aida Brenneis* believes that you can't pay someone and then say "educate my kid." You have to get involved and that is what she has been for almost 33 years. She first applied grease paint to Berkeley High School Drama students in 1967 and continues to ply her brushes in 2000.

*Carrie Sprague*, Berkeley League Representative, has been appointed to the Zoning Adjustments Board. Congratulations!

*Beth Springston*, Emeryville League Representative, has been appointed to the Housing Committee. Congratulations!

*Jeffery Shattuck Leiter* showed slides and shared anecdotes of his progenitor Francis K. Shattuck on the occasion of the April 1 Gala Celebration of Berkeley's Charter Day.

Happy May 14 or June 18, as appropriate.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Corresponding Secretary

## Consensus Questions for Community College UNITS June 6 and 7

1. Does the LWVBAE support the continuing permanent presence of Vista Community College in Berkeley to serve the educational needs of the citizens of Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville?
2. Does the League support continuation and expansion of Vista's partnerships with local businesses in such fields as biotechnology, multimedia and international trade and travel?
3. What criteria must be met for Vista to prosper within the Peralta Community College District and adequately serve the needs of its growing student body with regard to:
  - increases in faculty and staff;
  - timely construction of a facility large enough to meet increases in student enrollment anticipated over the next decade;
  - the development of a predictable, explicit Peralta District funding formula to allocate revenues equitably among the District's four colleges?
4. What is an appropriate balance of expenditure between instructional services provided to students and central District administrative outlays?

Vista is the only college in the Peralta Community College District without a campus of its own. It has repeatedly been denied the financial resources granted to the other colleges. Since the settlement negotiated by the State Chancellor in 1998, following Vista's effort to de-annex from Peralta, considerable progress has been made to improve Vista's standing. Most recently, the District took title to a plot of land on Center Street on which to erect a permanent facility.

**Faculty full-time positions:** The central issues of a funding allocation formula and an improved ratio of full-time to part-time faculty at Vista remain unresolved. State law requires a 75-25 ratio, and a majority of community college districts around the state have been working to increase the number of full-time faculty. Peralta District, however, has reduced its ratio of full-timers by almost 3% District-wide, by freezing new full-time hiring, so this problem is not unique to Vista.

**Financing:** State law also requires at least 50% of a district's funds to go for instructional services. At the same time faculty positions have been frozen, the new

Chancellor, with the Board's approval, has increased the number of central District staff positions. While Peralta has often skirted very close to the legal limit on this ratio, these new expenditures may well put the entire District in violation.

The future financial health of the District is murky. The entire state is staring at the so-called Tidal Wave II, roughly 1/2 million extra students, Baby Boomer's children who are reaching college age. Every institution of higher education will be straining to accommodate them; and the community college system, which has been underfunded for years, will be particularly hard-pressed to find space and classes for them all over the next decade. Existing state law imposes a 3% per year cap on enrollment increases on community colleges. Enrollment increases over that amount are paid for not by the state, but by individual district general funds. Either the law will have to change, or the districts will need considerably more money, or many students will be denied admission.

### **What you can do: Come to our UNIT meetings!**

**Donate books!** Learn more about our community colleges, the work they do, and their peculiar finances. The allocation of funds for community college libraries statewide is still tied to the K-12 system's library budget. Vista, following the State Chancellor's settlement, has acquired a handsome new library, but it has only 1,000 books for 4,000 students. The state library system recommended that Albany High School, with 800 students, should stock 12,000 books! If your bookcases are bulging, clear them out with a good conscience. The Vista librarian has put out a call for:

- Classic hardbacks in good condition;
- How-to books on writing term papers, doing research, grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary;
- Books of good modern fiction by such authors as Alice Walker, Amy Tan, Isabelle Allende, Toni Morrison;
- History books on California, African-American and general U.S. history, from Ishi to Cadillac Desert and beyond;
- Dictionaries: English to Spanish, French, German, Russian;
- Other Reference books: modern atlases, books on tape (for the use of blind students), fairly current science texts in Chemistry, Biology, Geology and Physical Science, teaching texts in Calculus and Pre-calculus.

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## League Speakers Informed Voters for March 7 Primary

A major voter education effort is the Speakers Bureau, which sends speakers to organizations throughout our communities. For the March 7 Primary Election, the League provided speakers for the following organizations to talk on the Pros & Cons of the 20 state and 2 county ballot measures:

Albany United Methodist Church  
Berkeley Board of Realtors  
Berkeley City Commons Club  
Chinese Community Church, Berkeley  
East Bay Center for the Blind  
1st Congregational Church, Berkeley  
First Unitarian Alliance  
North Berkeley Senior Center  
Northbrae Community Church, Berkeley  
Orientation Center for the Blind  
South Berkeley Senior Center  
Suitcase Clinic, Berkeley  
Strawberry Creek Lodge, Berkeley  
Watergate Clipper Club, Emeryville

The League's Pros & Cons meeting was well attended and the discussion of the ballot measures was lively.

A special thank you to the following League briefers and speakers: *Nancy Bickel, L.H. Chan, Doris Fine, Anne Henderson, Wilma Jordan, Pat Kuhi, Helene Lecar, Fran Packard, Jo Ann Price, Sherry Smith, Carol Stone, Carol Voisin, and Phoebe Watts.*

*-Eloise Bodine & Jane Coulter,*  
Co-Chairs, Speakers Bureau

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## June UNITs (continued from Page 5)

Other ideas are multiple copies for class reading lists of such books as All the President's Men, Dead Man Walking, Bastard out of Carolina, Their Eyes Were Watching God, Never Cry Wolf, and Having Our Say.

But **NO MAGAZINES, PLEASE!**

If you can help, just assemble your trophies in cartons and call Marsha Skinner to arrange for transport. Many thanks!

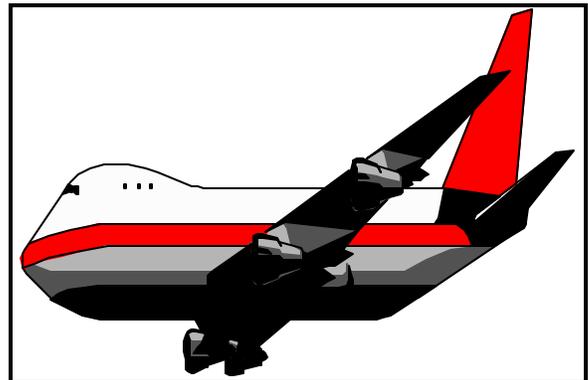
*-Helene Lecar*

## Recycling Makes a Difference

At its March 13 meeting, the Environmental Concerns group focused on the 4 R's for a better environment. *Gail Schickele* brought a wealth of information on recycling, including websites to obtain more information. Global Recycling Network, to which over 500 organizations belong worldwide, for instance, is at [www.grn.com](http://www.grn.com). Another is [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org). She also reported on the 13 new laws California enacted which took effect on January 1 and some of the grants recently awarded by the Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board. Dublin is our first city to recycle 50% of construction/demolition debris. Programs are developing to recycle toner cartridges, computers, mattresses.

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority has printed many educational guides, booklets for specific businesses, posters for schools, and produced some videos. One or more copies of these publications are in the LWVBAE Office for members to read. The "1999 Recycling Guide" is excellent, and "1990-2000, A Decade of Progress" highlights our success to date. The key is REDUCE waste, REUSE products and package, and RECYCLE as much as possible. ROT is the fourth R, involving recycling by composting organic materials (yard trimmings and kitchen scraps).

The videos "Paper Trail: Conserving Resources Through Paper Reduction", "Do the Rot Thing: The Simple Art of Home Composting", and "Taking Back our Trash..a Film about Waste" are in the League office, where they may be viewed or borrowed.



*-Ginette Polak*

## Instant Runoff Voting UNITs

**Wednesday, May 17, 1 to 3 pm, Albany Public  
Library, Edith Stone Room, and**

**Thursday, May 18, 7 to 9 pm at the LWVBAE  
Office, 1414 University Avenue**

In the April *VOTER* we described how Instant Runoff Voting (IRV) works and gave a few reasons why this election system is attracting attention in the League at all levels. The essence of IRV is that the ballot provides places to record your first, second, etc., choices for a single seat office. If your first choice candidate is eliminated, your second choice vote is transferred and so on until one candidate has a majority. IRV is essentially equivalent to the existing runoff system, except that the runoff, if necessary, is carried out immediately from the information in the multi-choice ballots, instead of in a special election one month later.

The Study Group presents here the single Consensus Question together with subjects for presentations and discussion at the UNITs before a consensus can be sought. A Fact Sheet on IRV will be handed out at the UNITs to supplement the study material.

### The Consensus Question:

- Should the League of Women Voters of Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville Support the Use of Instant Runoff Voting (Irv) for All Single Winner Elections, as Soon as Suitable Equipment Is in Place and Any Needed Enabling Legislation Has Been Passed?

### Discussion Topics:

- How would IRV affect the principle of majority rule?

Proponents say that with IRV, you are guaranteed a majority winner. Under the current system in place in Berkeley, a candidate could be opposed by most of the voters, yet still win election because she received 45% of the vote in the general election. Opponents say that this is a red herring - that this situation is not very likely to occur.

- How would IRV affect voter turnout?

Proponents say that the number of people involved in selecting the winner will increase because the number of voters usually drops significantly in the special runoff election. Opponents say that many voters will not make more than one choice, so that the outcome of an instant runoff may involve no more voters than a regular runoff.

- What will be the effect of IRV on “strategic voting”? “Strategic voting” is defined here as voting for a candidate other than your preferred choice so as not to waste your vote on a candidate with slim chances for winning. Proponents say that the ability to vote your true preference without “wasting” your vote is one of the strongest arguments for IRV. If your first choice is weakly supported, your vote will be transferred to one of the front runners. The tallies in an IRV election will show the real strength of all candidates. It is even possible to elect a candidate who is unexpectedly strong. Opponents say that the focus on centrist candidates which our present system provides can be adversely weakened under IRV.

- What will be the effect of IRV on negative campaigning?

Proponents say that IRV will reduce negative campaigning because candidates are concerned about alienating voters who could give them a needed second choice vote. Opponents say that there is no hard evidence that US candidates will eschew negative campaigning under IRV and, if they do, information of value to the voter may be withheld in what might become a bland contest.

- IRV settles elections straightaway, without the “second look” afforded by a regular runoff. Will this not weaken the election process?

Proponents concede that a “second look” is a benefit that would be lost under IRV, but that the many advantages of IRV outweigh this one disadvantage. They also point out that the “second look” is of dubious value because the special runoff election has such a poor turnout, and that the Berkeley 45% rule also makes a second look less likely. Opponents say that the second look in a contest where the two leading candidates are head to head in a continuing campaign is a safeguard in choosing the winner that should not be disposed of by using IRV.

- How does IRV affect costs of elections to the city?

Proponents point out that holding runoff elections can almost double city election costs. Much of the runoff expense under the present system has to be

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**IRV Study UNITS** (continued from Page 7)  
incurred even in contests where no runoff is needed: city clerks have to assume a runoff is needed in order to prepare election materials on a short-time scale. Opponents have to concede this point but argue that costs should not be a factor in choosing an election system.

- It is probable that more candidates will run in IRV elections than before. Will good overnance be helped or hindered thereby?

Two of the reasons that more candidates are likely under IRV are lesser campaign costs absent a separate runoff contest, and the fact that a candidate does not need to worry about being a “spoiler.” Proponents of IRV say that more choice is a good thing in a democracy. Opponents say that the presence of “single issue” candidates can fragment the discourse and work against broad campaigning which moves things toward the center.

-John Reynolds, Study Chair

## Environmental Concerns

### Plans to Avert the Next Firestorm

The Environmental Concerns Committee invites all to the May 8 meeting, 7:15 pm, 1340 Arch Street (at Rose). The meeting, organized by Gil Bendix, will feature a presentation by the Berkeley Fire Department on the current status of projects authorized by the 1992 bond issue. Projects include a proposed new fire station at Shasta Road and Grizzly Peak Blvd. and water system and fire hydrant improvements.

Leaguers have probably heard that the long-planned pumping system of Bay water for emergency fire fighting has been abandoned and may wonder what steps are being taken to prepare for the combined threats of wildfire and earthquake. Come.

-Eva Bansner

## Giving for the Future

The LWVBAE chapter was formed before most of us were born. And I confidently expect it will outlive us all. Although individuals don't live forever, organizations can. But they need help to do this. And a thoughtful will can enable you to leave a heritage for your loved ones while providing ongoing support for organizations that are important to you. Without a will, the government can distribute your property in ways you might not choose. The current tax system provides many ways to support organizations like the LWV, so check with your financial advisor about what's best for you. A bequest to LWVBAE, or to our educational Foundation, can help reduce estate taxes while insuring a solid foundation for the future of your League. We hope you will remember us.

-Beth Springston, Treasurer

### Something New for the League! T-Shirts and Book Bags

**Short Sleeve - \$15    Long Sleeve - \$20**



### Book Bags - \$18

Shirts are available in medium, large, and extra-large

**Call the League office at  
(510) 843-8824 and reserve your  
T-shirt and book bag today!**

## Emeryville Update

There's a lot going on in this 1.2 square mile city right now. Major changes are happening along its section of the San Pablo corridor. The Gateway housing project on the north border will be completed in a few months.

Across the street, the Emery High School improvements were finished this winter. At the other end, the Avalon senior housing project is under construction. The street median improvements are finished, and the traffic signal interconnect project for better light timing should be finished shortly. AC Transit buses serving the corridor are now a distinctive green. Other development projects are in the works: one to convert the former Standard Brands site to approximately 100 housing units behind street front retail stores; and one to replace the old King Midas Card Club with housing and/or retail.

In other parts of the city, old industrial buildings continue to be converted into offices, lofts and live/work units. The Emery Station office building beside the Amtrak Station is finished, and two more phases of this project are under way: a parking garage with housing on top and another office building. The Woodfin Suites and Marriott Courtyard hotels will be completed this year, along with Pixar Animation studios and the new City Hall annex. A 4th Watergate Tower, the last piece of construction west of the freeway, has been started.

By the time you get this *VOTER*, IKEA will have opened its only Northern California store on Shellmound Street. Whether you love it or hate it, there's no way any traveler will miss that blue and yellow landmark.

All of this construction may overshadow some of the other projects underway to make the City more livable and green. A community mural in Temescal Park will be unveiled this month. A Doyle Street greenway is being planned, along with a meditation and memorial park at Emery Point, and landscaping improvements along the waterfront and marina. The City is working with CalTrans on plans to beautify the I-80 underpass along Powell Street. And last, but not least, a number of street improvements for Powell, Christie and Hollis streets have been done to improve the traffic flow through the City.

*-Beth Springston, Emeryville Representative*

## League of Women Voters of California

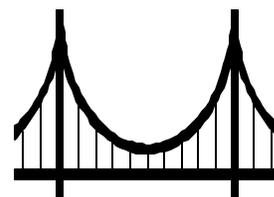
### Smart Voter News: Connecting People With Government

**Smart Voter** is providing online support to twelve communities in Los Angeles County for their local elections on April 11. A press release was sent to the Los Angeles Times and to the smaller dailies and weeklies in the cities having the elections.

The Los Angeles County communities holding elections are Arcadia, Avalon, Bradbury, Culver City, Lancaster, Lawndale, Long Beach, Malibu, Santa Clarita, Sierra Madre, Walnut, and Whittier. School board members, community college trustees and city officials are on the ballot in Long Beach and Avalon. Malibu is proposing a tax on space in parking facilities, and Culver City voters face a land use proposal that restricts public theaters to within 400 feet of a school. Talk about controversy.

**Smart Voter**, using the expertise, energy, and personal contacts that local League members already have, brings really meaningful online voter service to areas that need it most -- the smaller communities. Voters in these cities can obtain information about their elections on <http://www.smartvoter.org> and it's there for them 24 hours a day. No advertisements, no pitches or gimmicks of any kind -- just the pertinent information they need.

**Smart Voter** is a project of the League of Women Voters of California Education Fund, a 501 (c) 3 organization. Major funding is provided by Intel Corporation and SBC Communications. For information about **Smart Voter** send e-mail to Trudell Een at [ca-director@smartvoter.org](mailto:ca-director@smartvoter.org), or send e-mail to the League of Women Voters of California at [lwvc@jps.net](mailto:lwvc@jps.net) or call toll-free at 888-870-VOTE (8683).



-LWVC Press Release

# Calendar - Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

## April

26	Wed.	9 am - noon	Executive Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Price)
26	Wed.	1 pm	Vista Study Committee		(Lecar)
26	Wed.	7 - 9 pm	UNIT: Housing		(Adams)
27	Thurs.	12 - 2 pm	UNIT: Housing	Albany Library, Marin & Masonic	(Adams)
27	Thurs.	7 - 9 pm	Instant Runoff (IRV) Study		(Reynolds)
29	Sat.	10 am - 1 pm	New Member Orientation	LWVBAE Office	(Wainwright)

## May

3	Wed.	9 am - noon	Board Meeting	Albany Library, Marin & Masonic	(Price)
8	Mon.	7:15 pm	Environmental Concerns		(Bansner)
14	Sun.		"Million Mom March" (against gun violence), Washington, D.C.		
17	Wed.	9 am - noon	Action Committee		(Brubeck)
17	Wed.	1 - 3 pm	UNIT: Instant Runoff Voting	Albany Library	(Springston)
17	Wed.	1 - 3 pm	Vista Study Committee		(Lecar)
18	Thurs.	12 - 2 pm	Speaker Series: Immigration and Naturalization	Berkeley Chinese Community Church,	(Safir)
18	Thurs.	7 - 9 pm	UNIT: Instant Runoff Voting	LWVBAE Office	(Springston)
19	Fri.	1 - 3 pm	Education Committee		(Lecar)
20	Sat.	9:30 am - 1:30 pm	LWV Bay Area Convention	So. S. F.	(San Jule)
24	Wed.	1 - 3 pm	Vista Study Committee		(Lecar)
29	Mon.	All Day	Office Closed in Observance of Memorial Day (Polak)		
31	Wed.	9 am - noon	Executive Committee	LWVBAE Office	(Price)

## June

1	Thurs.	5:30 - 9:00 pm	— <b>ANNUAL MEETING</b> —		Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda	(Price)
6	Tue.	12 - 2 pm	UNIT: Vista Study	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room, Marin & Masonic Ave	(Lecar)	
7	Wed.	10 am - 2 pm	Board Meeting	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room	(Price)	
7	Wed.	7 - 9 pm	UNIT: Vista Study	LWVBAE Office	(Lecar)	
9	Fri.	Noon	July-August. VOTER Deadline	LWVBAE Office	(Hawley)	
15	Thurs.	1 - 3 pm	Education Committee		(Lecar)	
17	Sat. Through 20 Tue.		National LWV Convention	Washington D.C.	(Price)	
19	Mon.		<b>Office Closed through August 11</b>			
24	Thurs.		— <b>Second Annual Community Luncheon</b> — Save the Date —		(Wainwright)	

