

The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS
of BERKELEY, ALBANY
and EMERYVILLE



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President: Jo Ann B. Price

September, 2000

Editor: Bob Hawley

Fall General Meeting

Thursday, September 28, 2000, 5:30 to 9:00 pm
Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda at Los Angeles

5:30 Buffet Supper

6:45 Speaker: Ione Elioff, President of Vista Community College of the Peralta Community College District
“What Does the Future Hold for Vista Community College and the Peralta Community College District?”

7:45 Business Meeting: Vote on Housing, Instant Runoff Voting, and Vista Community College positions,
Plans for LWVBAE’s Campaign 2000 for Democracy and Good Government

9:00 Adjournment

This Fall 2000 General Meeting is timely and very important for LWVBAE members and potential members. Come to kick-off the election season with our League’s Campaign 2000 for Democracy and Good

Government, pick up election materials, and socialize with friends and colleagues over a delicious buffet supper arranged by *Ruthann Taylor*. In fact, why not bring along a friend or colleague who is new to our League? Then hear from Ione Elioff, the new President of Vista College, about her vision and plans for the next five years, including Vista’s new building in downtown Berkeley. Finally, participate in the business meeting where we’ll hear all about the **League’s plans for Election November 2000** (which definitely include you); and we’ll be asked to adopt the Board’s recommended positions on three topics: **Housing, Instant Runoff Elections, and Vista Community College**. These positions were arrived at after thorough committee study and thoughtful member consensus discussion. Adoption of these positions will allow the League to pursue action in all three areas as soon as possible. **Be sure to read ahead of time and bring the PROPOSED NEW POSITIONS section of this Voter (pages 5-9) with you.**

Please call the office at 843-8824 by Friday, September 23, to reserve supper at \$10 and let us know if you need a ride. You may send in your check, pay at the door, bring your own food, or come just for the speaker and meeting.

-But please plan to come!

-Jo Ann B. Price, President

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President's Column
**LWVBAE Campaign 2000 for
 Democracy and Good Government
 Catch The Spirit! Get Involved!**

**Care Enough to Help Make Democracy Work in
 Election 2000! Work with the League and Multiply
 The Effectiveness of Your Efforts Many Times
 Over!**

Our League is going to be heavily engaged during the next 2½ months helping to educate the voters on the issues at the city, county, state, and national levels - and making sure that everyone who needs to, gets registered to vote and then gets out to vote on November 7 - or gets and returns an absentee ballot well in advance of that date. These activities may seem mundane to some, but they absolutely need to be carried out with dedication, effectiveness, and enthusiasm. They matter!

The statistics of political poll after poll, taken from many different angles, point to one major demoralizing truth. The U.S. electorate isn't voting in larger and larger numbers. It isn't paying attention. It apparently doesn't care. Too many of us take our freedoms for granted or think our vote doesn't matter or are discouraged by the obscene amounts of money being chased by candidates and parties or recoil at the negative and mean-spirited ads that demean everyone concerned while allowing the ads to do their dirty and insidious job of effectively tearing down the candidate personally and ignoring the issues. Many reforms are needed to make our democracy work the way it should for all of us. But first voters have to be "immunized" against those evils and the cynicism and impotency they engender. Unless the League and other like-minded organizations get their members to help other voters to become aware, educated on the issues, and knowledgeable about the candidates - there'll be precious little opportunity to bring about any meaningful political reform.

Given the mission of our organization, we Leaguers must commit ourselves to making a difference in our local, county, and state elections by "immunizing" ourselves and our voters with full nonpartisan education on the issues and candidates and then making sure we all vote. The LWVBAE board has taken on the challenge of reaching many more and varied local voters with our Pro & Con issues materials, our Speakers Bureau, our PR effort, our registration drive, our Smart Voter website, our Candidates Nights, and an all-out effort to get every

eligible voter to take someone to vote who would likely not do so on his/her own. However, we're asking for a commitment deeper than that. We want each member to fully educate her/himself about the issues, candidates, and consequences of his/her vote and then to share that information as widely as possible.

Come to the Fall General Meeting to find out more about our League's **Campaign 2000 for Democracy and Good Government** and get "immunized". Catch that Spirit of Democracy and be effective! I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 28th.

-Jo Ann

June Board Briefs

The Board met at the Albany library on June 7. It was the annual "Turnover" meeting, including old and new Board members.

The Nominating Committee is searching for a Program VP and a Secretary.

Audits for the years 7/96 through 6/97, 7/97 through 6/98, and 7/98 through 6/99 were distributed. *Sarah Miyazaki* Associate Treasurer will handle the Treasurer's duties mid-June through mid-September while Treasurer *Beth Springston* is traveling.

We had 417 members in May.

The Board voted to support Alameda County Measure B Transportation Tax on the Nov. 7 ballot.

Karen Carlson-Olson will be the new Administrative Assistant. The finalized Board Handbook 2000 was distributed. The office will close 6/19 and reopen 8/14.

The 2nd Annual Community Luncheon Honorary Committee invitations will be sent on 7/10 and regular invitations about 8/1. The event will be on 8/24 at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm with UCB Prof. Bruce Cain as speaker.

League T-shirt and tote sales have been good, grossing over \$1,000 so far.

Fall General Meeting will be 9/28, at the Northbrae Community Church, from 5:30 to 9 pm, with supper, speaker, and business meeting.

LWVBA's Convention was 5/20 and all up-dated positions were passed with minor changes.

-(Continued on Page 3)

Speaker Series

Thursday, September 14, 2000

Albany Library, noon to 2 pm

The season's first Speaker Series gathering will give League members a chance to learn about the many community service programs conducted by the UC Berkeley YWCA.

Two of their staff members have agreed to come to talk to us: Jane Abraham, coordinator of the English in Action program, will tell us about her particular program, which provides tutors for foreign speakers. Sharon Bettinelli, the Y's Executive Director, will tell us about some of the many other programs, including career training, opportunities, and management; youth mentoring by UC students; dance lessons of a wide variety; volunteer needs and opportunities; and many more.

The meeting will take place from noon to 2 pm on Thursday, September 14, at the Albany Library in the Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Avenue, at the corner of Masonic Avenue. Bring a brown-bag lunch, if you wish; the Speaker Series committee will provide fruit juice. Lots of parking is available, and a bus line is only a block away.

-Jean Safir, Speaker Series Coordinator



June Board Briefs

(continued from Page 2)

LWVUS Convention 2000 in Washington to be attended by 5 delegates: *Price, Springston, Safir, Lecar, and Henderson*. Other LWVBAE members will be going, representing other Leagues which can't fill their quota.

The wording of the Housing Study consensus and the Instant Runoff Voting consensus was discussed, amended for clarity, and a vote taken to recommend both to the members for adoption at the Sept. General Meeting.

-Violet Feinauer, Secretary

Calling on All League Members

The League office reopened from the summer hiatus on August 14. We expect to provide full service, 10 am to 4 pm, Monday through Friday, and we need volunteers to staff it both mornings and afternoons. This need will be accentuated in September through the November election. The demand for information from the public regarding elections locally, statewide, and nationally will significantly augment the usual requests the office receives.

League leaders will be working on their various responsibilities in the office during this time, and they, as well as other members, are urged to volunteer to staff the office at least twice a month. While at the office, volunteers meet other League members and learn of ongoing projects, as well as carrying out their specific duties of answering the phone, forwarding messages, greeting visitors, processing incoming mail, and assisting with special projects upon request, such as processing the *Voter* for mailing.

Ruthann Taylor, Office Volunteer Coordinator, is now recruiting and scheduling the office staff for three-hour shifts Monday to Friday, 10 am to 1 pm and 1 pm to 4 pm. It is very helpful if a volunteer is willing to work the same time slot each time (s)he comes; every week would be ideal. But any variation of commitment from once or twice a week at the same time to once or twice a month at different times is useful as well. Also needed are substitutes willing to be called when staffing is required at the last minute. Whatever your schedule, we can use your help.

Please call *Ruthann* at 527-0673 or the office at 843-8824 to join our team of office staff. Please leave your name and phone number on the answering machine if no one is available to take your call. You'll get a return call as soon as your message is heard.

Welcome to the League office staff!

-Jody Hinshaw, Administrative VP

Donors Through July

General Fund

Elsa Tranter

Foundation

Phyllis Clement*

* In Memory of *Jean Dehlinger*

Personals

The travel beat goes on: *Charlotte* and John *Bernardin* lived on the banks of the Rhine River in Germany. Their daughter, son-in-law, and three grandchildren crossed the Channel from England to join them. *Jane Barrett* journeyed to Scotland. *Marion* and *Dan Luten* are in Michigan attending a family rally. *Pat Wadleigh* spent an extended visit with her daughter in Southern California. *Eleanor Cox* is at home after traveling 3000 miles through Yellowstone National Park and eight of the neighboring states. *Jo Ann* and *Buford Price* recently returned from Angkor Wat, Bangkok, and Hanoi with many tales and photos.

Winifred McLaughlin, *Mary Friedman*, and others are volunteering their time this summer at the John Muir School Reading Program.

Christine Maslach, daughter of justifiably proud *Doris*, is only the third woman to be Chairman of the UCB Academic Senate.

To celebrate *Lenora Young's* becoming an octogenarian on August 7, her family hosted a garden party. LWV Merced County and LWVBAE members were among the guests congratulating *Lenora*.

Miriam (Mim) Hawley is running on the November ballot as a candidate for the Berkeley City Council from District 5.

The George and Doris Cuneo Maslach Hall, formerly Building 8, on the Clark Kerr Campus of UCB will be dedicated at a later date. Professor George and LWVBAE's *Doris* are being honored for their exemplary service to the University for more than 60 years. *Doris* began her work in housing, which she continues to this day, as Housing Director in the ASUC. She worked closely with Clark Kerr and was largely responsible for saving the former site of the School for the Deaf as a housing facility for UC students. Congratulations to you both.

Love in Bloom: Sunday, August 27, will be a happy day for *Yvonne San Jule* and UCB Prof. of Molecular Biology *Dan Koshland* when they will be married at Dan's home in Lafayette. *Yvonne* and *Dan*

City Conversations Bids Adieu to Jill Martinucci

On June 29, of the LWVBAE crew at B-TV/Channel 25 who were in town honored *Jill Martinucci* at a feast at the King Yen restaurant. *Jill* has devoted countless hours of her time and has been tremendously integral to LWVBAE's television and video productions for several years. Her masterful expertise includes lighting engineering and stage setup. In fact, she mounted the wonderful black and white blow-up master photos of Berkeley which served as the beautiful backdrop for the set. She also produced and directed the shows. Among her major productions were interviews with candidates for mayor and city council of Berkeley which were played often before the November 1999 election. These shows provided citizens with an unmatched opportunity to hear directly from the candidates.

Jill's shoes will be very hard to fill. The League will miss her commitment, energy, and skills that helped put LWVBAE on television and connected in such an important way with the community. Thank you, *Jill* for all you've done. All our best to you in your future creative endeavors!

-*Doris Nassiry*, B-TV/LWVBAE Crew

first met when she was a freshman at Cal. They met again at the reception on the Cal campus for LWVB Past President *Harriet Nathan*. We are pleased that *Yvonne* has agreed to continue with her position as our liaison to the Bay Area League which, by coincidence, maintains its office in Lafayette. We wish them joy and happiness in a long life together.

Jody K. Hinshaw, Administrative VP, and *Brian Howard* were married in St. Clements Church on Sunday, July 30. We wish for them a long and happy life together.

In Memoriam

Jean Dehlinger, a longtime member of our League, died on July 26. Our heartfelt condolences go to her husband *Klaus*, family, and friends. A memorial was held on August 26. *Jean* was involved in many League activities and in particular with the League's health care studies.

We send our sincere condolences to *Willa Baum* and the family and friends of *Willa's* son *Noah* who was recently killed in an accident. *Noah* was a 34-year-old attorney and practiced law in the Hollywood area.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Corresponding Secretary

**PROPOSED NEW AND AMENDED LOCAL SUPPORT POSITIONS
RECOMMENDED TO THE MEMBERS FOR ADOPTION
BY THE LWVBAE BOARD
September 28, 2000**

At the Fall General Meeting on September 28, 2000, LWVBAE members will have an opportunity to act on proposed new and amended Local Support Positions recommended by the Board. These new proposals emerged from a two-year study on housing, a one-year study on “instant runoff voting”, and the first year of a two-year study of the Peralta Community College District, with a focus on Vista Community College.

Once the members act on these recommendations – either to approve, with or without revisions, or to reject the Board’s recommendation – the League will be able to advocate effectively for local government programs and actions that lead to improvements in these important areas.

The proposed new and amended positions follow. If adopted, or adopted as amended, each will be inserted in the appropriate section of LWVBAE’s Local Support Positions.

LOCAL SUPPORT POSITIONS

LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE

POLICIES WHICH PROMOTE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, ECONOMICAL, AND VISIBLE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, REPRESENTATIVE OF AND RESPONSIVE TO ALL CITIZENS

ALL WORDS IN BOLD CAPS APPLY TO BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE.

All words in bold apply to Berkeley and Albany. All words in *italics* apply to Berkeley alone.

Strikeout is applied to words to be deleted; underline is used for proposed new wording.

This draft was approved by the LWVBAE Board on June 7, 2000, and was recommended for adoption at the General Meeting of September, 2000. It represents a consensus following a one-year study.

PROPOSED NEW POSITION ON “INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING”

A. CITY CHARTER

3. ~~*In elections for Berkeley Mayor, Auditor, and Council, the winner should be determined by a significant plurality. For an office where no candidate receives a significant plurality of the votes, there should be a run-off election.*~~

“INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING” SHOULD BE USED IN ALL ELECTIONS IN WHICH THE FINAL RESULT WILL BE A SINGLE WINNER.

This draft was approved by the LWVBAE Board on June 7, 2000, and was recommended for adoption at the General Meeting of September, 2000. It represents a consensus following a two-year study.

PROPOSED AMENDED ZONING AND HOUSING POSITIONS

ALL WORDS IN BOLD CAPS APPLY TO BERKELEY, ALBANY, AND EMERYVILLE.

All words in bold apply to Berkeley and Albany. All words in *italics* apply to Berkeley alone.

Strikeout is applied to words to be deleted; underline is used for proposed new wording.

3. ZONING

~~*Berkeley zoning policy should be directed toward maintaining a population of 110,000 to 115,000 as recommended in the 1977 Master Plan.*~~

1. Zoning regulations should be updated by periodic revision of permitted uses.
2. ~~Population density increase in any specific area of the City should be evaluated primarily on the basis of projected increase in the number of automobiles in the neighborhood, in terms of on-street parking, traffic generation and accessibility of public transportation.~~
2. **HIGH DENSITY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE LOCATED NEAR MAJOR TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES, ALONG WELL-SERVED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS, AND SHOULD ALWAYS BE PLANNED WITH A VIEW TO MINIMIZING COMMUTER TRAFFIC, to and from Berkeley.**
3. ~~*Coordination with the Regional Plan of the Association of Bay Area Governments is desirable, with Berkeley reserving the right to make decisions affecting population growth within the City.*~~
[Merged with 4a below under HOUSING]

D. HOUSING

~~*Berkeley should have a housing program that conserves and improves existing housing stock while increasing the available supply where appropriate. Shelter is a basic human need that requires support from every level of government.*~~ [Merged with new positions below]

1. ~~*Healthy and safe housing conditions should be maintained through an orderly, city-wide extension of concentrated code enforcement. Code compliance should be achieved through a service approach, including relocation services, rental subsidies, technical assistance, and repair and rehabilitation loans for low-income owners.*~~
2. ~~*The need for student housing at the University of California, Berkeley should be met. The City should work with the state and the U.C. Berkeley campus.*~~ [Moved to 3 below]
3. ~~*The supply of housing for low and moderate income residents should be increased.*~~
 - a. ~~*Residential uses in commercial districts should be encouraged.*~~ [Moved to 2a below]
 - b. ~~*The supply of housing suitable for households with children should be increased.*~~
 - c. ~~*Vacant and boarded-up housing should be returned to use where economically feasible.*~~
[Moved to 1e below.]
 - d. ~~*Public financial means should be used to stimulate and assist private non-profit development and operation of low and moderate income housing, i.e. seed money, loan guarantees, technical assistance, revolving funds, etc.*~~ [Merged with 4 below]
 - e. ~~*Local government incentives should be provided for private development of low and moderate income housing by:*~~
 - (1) ~~*administrative means; i.e. simplifying permit procedures, postponing or forgiving permit fees, etc.;*~~
 - (2) ~~*legislative (zoning) means, i.e. flexible application of regulation.*~~ [Merged with 4 below]

Proposed Positions (continued from Page 6)

~~f. The City should actively seek a variety of outside resources for funding housing development.~~

~~4. Berkeley should determine its share of the population without shelter in Alameda County and arrange basic shelter for them. Priority should be placed on helping people remain in their home community. [Moved to 1f below]~~

~~5. Berkeley should have a publicly funded tenant/landlord information and mediation service available city-wide to both tenants and landlords, with emphasis on education. [Moved to 1g below]~~

- 1. THE CITY¹ SHOULD PRESERVE AND IMPROVE THE CONDITION OF ITS EXISTING HOUSING STOCK, USING SUCH MEASURES AS THE FOLLOWING:**
- a. ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSING AND BUILDING CODES.**
 - b. SEEK FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THAT MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE AS LOW-COST LOANS AND GRANTS FOR REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION OF HOUSING FOR LOW-AND MODERATE-INCOME RENTERS AND HOMEOWNERS.**
 - c. ENCOURAGE WIDER PARTICIPATION IN SUBSIDY PROGRAMS FOR HOUSING REHABILITATION AND CONSERVATION.**
 - d. PROMOTE EARTHQUAKE REINFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE FOR ALL RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY OWNERS AND DISASTER AWARENESS FOR ALL RESIDENTS.**
 - e. RETURN VACANT AND BOARDED-UP HOUSING TO USE WHERE ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE.**
[From 3c above]
 - f. *Arrange basic shelter for Berkeley's share of the population without shelter in Alameda County. Priority should be placed on helping people remain in their home community. [From D4 above]***
 - g. PUBLICLY FUND TENANT/ LANDLORD INFORMATION AND MEDIATION SERVICE AND MAKE IT AVAILABLE CITY-WIDE TO BOTH TENANTS AND LANDLORDS, WITH EMPHASIS ON EDUCATION.**
[From D5 above]
- 2. THE CITY SHOULD EXPAND ITS HOUSING STOCK TO MEET ITS SHARE OF THE REGION'S GROWTH PROJECTIONS, USING SUCH MEASURES AS THE FOLLOWING:**
- a. ENCOURAGE PRODUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL UNITS IN COMMERCIAL AREAS, BOTH AS MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING ON COMMERCIALY-ZONED PARCELS, AS HOUSING ABOVE COMMERCIAL USES AND AS HOUSING ABOVE PARKING AREAS.**
 - b. ENCOURAGE MIXED INCOME HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS.**
 - c. IDENTIFY AND LIMIT CONSTRAINTS ON NEW HOUSING CONSTRUCTION, SUCH AS DELAYS IN PROJECT REVIEW AND APPROVAL, POWER OF RESIDENTS TO BLOCK PROJECT APPROVAL, OFF-STREET PARKING REQUIREMENTS, AND CONDITIONAL USE PERMITS. DETERMINE A CONSISTENT PROCEDURE FOR PERMIT PROCESSING TO PROVIDE PREDICTABILITY AND TIMELINESS.**
 - d. REVIEW THE ZONING CODE AND CONSIDER REVISIONS THAT WOULD PROMOTE PRODUCTION OF NEEDED HOUSING, WHILE MAINTAINING HEALTH AND SAFETY STANDARDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.**
 - e. ENCOURAGE CONSTRUCTION OF SECONDARY UNITS IN SINGLE-FAMILY AREAS, SUCH**

-(Continued on Page 8)

¹ "The City" refers to each of our three cities: Albany, Berkeley and Emeryville.

AS BY ELIMINATING PUBLIC HEARING REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICATIONS
f. INITIATE AND SUPPORT PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EFFORTS TO INCREASE RESOURCES FOR EXPANDING HOUSING FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN, ELDERLY, DISABLED, HOMELESS AND OTHER PERSONS WITH SPECIAL HOUSING NEEDS.

3. THE CITY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SHOULD COORDINATE EFFORTS TO MEET THE HOUSING NEEDS OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AND STAFF, THROUGH SUCH MEASURES AS THE FOLLOWING:

- a. WORK TOGETHER TO CONSTRUCT MORE HOUSING FOR UC STAFF AND STUDENTS. SUPPORT UC EFFORTS TO GENERATE PRIVATELY FINANCED STUDENT AND STAFF HOUSING.
- b. ENCOURAGE HOME-OWNERS TO RENT ROOMS TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS.
- c. ENCOURAGE THE USE OF AIR RIGHTS ABOVE PARKING LOTS TO BUILD STUDENT HOUSING.

4. THE CITY SHOULD PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES TO PRESERVE AND INCREASE HOUSING AFFORDABLE TO LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, USING SUCH MEASURES AS THE FOLLOWING:

- a. MEET ASSOCIATION OF BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS GOALS FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSING; COORDINATE LOCAL PLANS WITH REGIONAL PLANS OF THE ABAG.
- b. PARTICIPATE FULLY IN FEDERAL AND STATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS THAT MAKE FUNDS AVAILABLE AS LOANS AND GRANTS TO DEVELOPERS OF LOW- AND MODERATE-PRICED RENTAL HOUSING, AND TO LOW-INCOME RENTER HOUSEHOLDS.
- c. ASSIST NON-PROFIT DEVELOPERS TO FIND APPROPRIATE AND AFFORDABLE SITES FOR NEW MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING, TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS OF NEIGHBORS AND POTENTIAL RESIDENTS, AND TO APPLY FOR LOW COST FINANCING.
- d. SEEK ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO ENABLE THE CITY TO EXPAND HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS.
- e. PROMOTE MEASURES THAT WOULD MAKE PUBLICLY ASSISTED HOME OWNERSHIP AND RENTAL OPPORTUNITIES PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE AND AVAILABLE TO LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS; SUCH MEASURES WOULD INCLUDE LIMITED EQUITY COOPERATIVES AND DEED RESTRICTIONS.
- f. OFFER INCENTIVES TO ENCOURAGE THE PRODUCTION OF HOUSING FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS, SUCH AS REDUCED DEVELOPMENT FEES, "FAST-TRACK" PERMIT PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS AND PLAN REVIEW, AND REDUCTION OF REQUIRED AMENITIES.
- g. IDENTIFY SITES ABOVE ONE- AND TWO-STORY BUILDINGS ON TRANSPORTATION CORRIDORS, AND OFFER GRANTS OR LOW-INTEREST RATE LOANS IN EXCHANGE FOR A PERCENTAGE OF PERMANENTLY AFFORDABLE UNITS BUILT THERE.
- h. SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN INCLUSIONARY ZONING LAWS TO PROVIDE MORE HOUSING FOR LOW- AND MODERATE-INCOME PEOPLE.

-(Continued on Page 9)

Proposed Positions (continued from Page 8)

This draft was approved by the LWVBAE Board on August 9, 2000, and was recommended for adoption at the General Meeting of September 28, 2000. It represents a consensus following a one-year study.

PROPOSED NEW VISTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE POSITION

(This position will be placed in the EDUCATION section of LWVBAE's position folder following the positions on Public Education.)

VISTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

A. Vista Community College should be a permanent presence in Berkeley to serve the educational needs of the residents of Albany, Berkeley, and Emeryville.

B. For Vista Community College to continue to prosper within the Peralta Community College District and appropriately serve the community, Vista should receive sufficient resources from the District to achieve overall equity relative to the other colleges in the District. Equity should be measured by the District's commitment of resources to achieve the following goals:

1. Timely construction of a permanent facility for Vista, with adequate space and equipment to meet the needs of current and projected enrollment.
2. Dependable, proportional funding based on stated criteria to develop and maintain Vista's programs.
3. An appropriate balance of authority between the central District and the College.
4. A reasonable allocation of faculty-staff positions commensurate with Vista's proportion of total Peralta District student enrollment and consistent with state regulations.
5. A library budget adequate to provide books, space, staff, services, and equipment to the Vista student body, comparable to that available to students on the other Peralta campuses.
6. District support for Vista's private-sector partnerships.
7. Adherence to proper procedures for major changes in personnel and program, with adequate and timely public notice to ensure opportunity for public input.

C. If Vista Community College is unable to prosper within the Peralta Community College District, it should seek an appropriate alternative form of governance.

League Volunteers Needed For LWVBAE's Campaign 2000 Activities

The election season is upon us. Here's what you can do to help the League get the word out to voters:

1. We are publishing "Pros and Cons" on the ballot measures at the state and local levels. We want to distribute them as widely as possible. If you are in a neighborhood group, club, faith congregation or other organization, please call the office and ask to have a specified number set aside for you to pick up. If you need the service, they could be delivered to you, given enough lead time.

2. We need volunteers to distribute "Pros and Cons" and register voters at tables at supermarkets, libraries, and shopping centers.

3. Our Speakers Bureau has League members trained to give unbiased presentations on the issues on the November ballot. They are willing to speak at as many places as possible. Please think about the neighborhood groups, clubs, or religious organizations of which you are a member, which would like to have a League speaker for a fall program. And you are welcome to be trained as a member of the Speakers Bureau if you could help with these presentations.

4. We need volunteers to register voters at events, and to go to homes of people who need and request individual registration.

5. There will be several Candidates Nights, for those running for office in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville. We need people to help set up the sites, moderate the events, distribute and retrieve question cards, and assist with a myriad of small functions.

6. Because many people think of calling the League with questions during election time, it is particularly important that we have the office fully staffed with volunteers from Monday through Friday from 10-1 and from 1-4.

Please call to volunteer for any of the above. Call the office or me directly.

-*Sherry Smith*, Community Services VP

Environmental Concerns

Monday, September 11, 7:30 pm
1340 Arch Street (at Rose Street)
An Evening with Karl Linn

Reclaiming the Commons

The Environmental Concerns committee resumes second Monday of the month meetings with a very special Berkeley resident whose environmental concerns have flowered into community gardens. Karl Linn was trained as both a landscape architect and as a psychologist. His work inspired preservation of community gardens on the east coast and creation of them here. The gardens established here were selected to represent landscape achievements in northern California by the American Society of Landscape Architects. Their significance to the city was recognized by Berkeley in establishing a Karl Linn day and a garden bearing his name.

Committee conveners *Erika Kunkel*, *Gail Schickele*, and *Eva Bansner* anticipate fall programs on community food security and farmland preservation. Please come and bring interested friends as we build our awareness of responsible environmental stewardship.

-*Eva Bansner*, Environmental Concerns

• • •

Invite Your Friends To Join LWVBAE!

The election season is an excellent time to ask your friends to join the League, taking advantage of our reputation for helping citizens become informed voters. Show a copy of the LWVBAE *Voter* to your neighbors or friends who are interested in governmental issues and policies and might be ready to participate in our activities. Or call the League Office with their names and addresses so we can send them a packet of information about the League and how to enroll. The Membership Committee welcomes your help with introducing the League to prospective members.

-*Ginette Polak*, Membership Director

Action

Our League was asked to sign arguments for many of the local measures on the November ballot. Thus far, the Board decided to support four Berkeley measures. The first is a bond measure to expand and upgrade Branch Libraries, in an amount not to exceed \$5,200,000, the bonds to be issued only if matching funds from the state or other sources provide at least 65% of the cost of the improvements. The bonds are expected to average .43 cents (less than half a penny) per \$100 valuation during the 30-year issue. The additional three are re-authorizations of previously approved measures (the Library Tax (1988); the Emergency Medical Services Tax (1997); and the Parks Maintenance Tax (1997)). None of these three measures has new tax implications.

The Alameda County Leagues will be supporting the new transportation Measure B.

On state ballot measures, LWVC has decided to:

- Oppose Proposition 34: Campaign Contributions and Expenditures. This repeals most of Proposition 208 and sets contribution limits that are among the highest in the nation. It includes loopholes that allow almost unlimited amounts of money to be routed to candidates through parties. It has no limits for “soft money” or “independent expenditures.”
- Oppose Proposition 37: Fees, Taxes, New Definitions, Vote Requirements. This redefines as taxes any fees enacted by state or local government to monitor, study or mitigate societal or economic effects of activity if the payer has no regulatory obligation. The fees would then require a 2/3 vote of the electorate in most cases; and state fees, a 2/3 vote of the Legislature.
- Oppose Proposition 38: State Funded School Vouchers for Private Education. This provides state payment of at least \$4,000 per pupil for qualifying private and religious schools. It severely restricts the ability of the state to regulate private schools and exempts them from the Uniform Building Codes.
- Support Proposition 39: 55% Vote for Local School Bonds. This sets the vote required for passage of local school bonds at 55% and requires school districts to provide a detailed plan of projects to be funded. It also requires independent financial and performance audits.

“Vote with the League” flyers will be available before October and we urge you to give them to friends, neighbors, associates.

-Lois Brubeck, Action VP

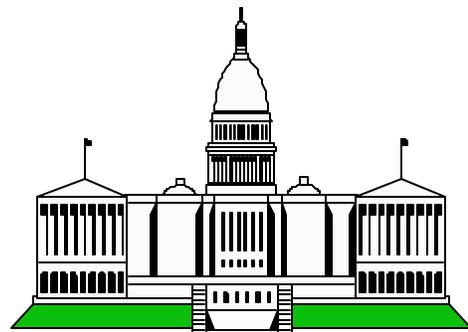
LWVUS Convention 2000 Report

This convention will be remembered as being somewhat chaotic and “different” from its predecessors for several reasons, including: being significantly overbooked with good speakers during the Plenary Sessions, which cut into the delegates’ discussion time; having contested elections with heavy-duty electioneering that also distracted from attention to the consequences of program adoption on the budget; having the delegates forced to maneuver a discussion of the earlier grassroots.com deal decision by the Board.

In spite of the controversy, the business of the convention was accomplished. The delegates debated and passed an ambitious Program for 2000-2002. The proposed International Trade Update had a UN Update added to it. The non-recommended study of election systems passed, as did the non-recommended study of U.S. drug policy. A concurrence was voted to add support for restoration of the federal payment to the District of Columbia under the Government position. In addition, initiatives aimed at advancing the League’s four strategic program goals of Project Citizen, Project Voter, Project Diversity, and Project Reform were adopted. The problem is that the adopted budget includes funds only for the Trade Update, so there will need to be significant effort to find funding for the rest of the program. We are promised a revised Impact on Issues 2000-2002 this fall.

The official Minutes of the convention are available in the League office. You can also find them on the web at www.lwv.org. The delegates from Leagues in Alameda County met at our office for a debriefing in August. The comments and recommendations that resulted are being sent to the national Board.

-Jo Ann B. Price, President



- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

August

- 24 Thur. 11:30 am-1:30 pm **2nd Annual Community Luncheon Fundraiser**
 Holiday Inn on Emeryville Waterfront (Nelson)
- 30 Wed. 4:30-6 pm Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)

September

- 4 Mon. Labor Day – LWVBAE Office Closed – (Hinshaw)
- 6 Wed. 9 am-noon Board Meeting Albany Library - Edith Stone Rm (Price)
- 8 Fri. Deadline for October Voter (Hawley)
- 10 Sun. 11am-5 pm Solano Stroll Voter Registration/Service (Smith)
- 11 Mon. 7:30 pm Environmental Concerns 1340 Arch Street (Bansner)
- 14 Thur. noon-2 pm Speaker Series Univ. YWCA Activities (Safir)
 Albany Library-Edith Stone Rm
- 20 Wed. 9 am-noon Action 1419 Grant St. (Watts) (Brubeck)
- 23 Sat. 11am-4 pm 50th Anniversary San Pablo Neighborhood Park
 Voter Registration/Service (Smith)
- 23 Sat. 9:30am-12:30pm Know Your Bay Area Day Fremont Library (San Jule)
- 27 Wed. 4:30pm-6 pm Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)
- 28 Thur. 5:30pm-9 pm **FALL GENERAL MEETING - Northbrae Community Church**
941 The Alameda @ Los Angeles (Price)

October

- 4 Wed. 9am-noon Board Meeting Emery Bay Clubhouse (Price)
- 10 Tues. Deadline for registering for November 7 general election
- 12 Thurs. noon-2 pm Speaker Series Albany Library - Edith Stone Rm (Safir)
- 18 Wed. 9am-noon Action 1419 Grant (Watts)
 (Brubeck)
- 25 Wed. 4:30pm-6 pm Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)

November

- 1 Wed. 9am-noon Board Meeting Albany Library - Edith Stone Rm (Price)
- 7 Tues. 7am-8 pm **ELECTION DAY 2000** LWVBAE Office (843-8824)

