



President: Sherry Smith

October 2004

Editor: Lea Barker

ELECTION SERVICES IN FULL SWING FOR NOVEMBER ELECTION

At time of going to press, candidates had been invited to the following public events and most had accepted:

Monday, September 27: *Berkeley Rent Board* candidates at Berkeley City Council chambers, 7-8:30 pm. This program will be advertised to the public, and taped for B-TV, Channel 33.

Wednesday, September 29: *Berkeley School Board* candidates at Berkeley City Council chambers, 7-8:30 pm. Same arrangements as above.

Friday, October 8: *Peralta Community College* District candidates for Districts 4 and 6 (which take in all of Berkeley, Emeryville and Albany), Room 145, Vista College Annex, Berkeley, 5:30-7:30 pm.

Thursday, October 14. *Berkeley School Board* candidates. Program at Malcolm X or Longfellow School, co-sponsored with the PTA Council, 7:30-9 pm.

Pros and Cons presentations for League Members will be held:

- **Tuesday, October 19, 6:30-8 pm,**
- **Wednesday, October 20, 1-3 pm,**

at Albany Library, Edith Stone Room, 1247 Marin Avenue at Masonic.

Also being planned:

- A Sunday in October forum for Albany School Board and Albany City Council candidates;
- Berkeley School Board candidates at the Berkeley Adult School, daytime, and
- Albany School Board candidates at Albany High School, during the school day, before the Mock Election.

Ten community groups have requested **Pros and Cons presentations**, which have also been scheduled.

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ABSENTEE VOTING

Absentee Ballot requests must be received by County Registrar of Voters by 5 p.m. on Oct. 26.

Return your voted ballot to the Registrar of Voters or to any polling place in Alameda County by 8 p.m., Election Day.

Alameda County Registrar of Voters: 663-VOTE (8683).

SMART VOTER

<http://www.smartvoter.org/>

- ◆ **Your ballot with polling place**
- ◆ **Information on races**
- ◆ **Links to other sources**
- ◆ **Local election resources**
- ◆ **How do I get all of this data?** Type your address and zip code into "**My Ballot**" or browse contests geographically.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear League Members—

The big item on the near horizon is the LWVBAE Fall General Meeting to be held at the Northbrae Community Church September 30. Some of you may receive this *VOTER* after that date, but I still wanted to take this opportunity to urge you to attend.

The evening will begin with a buffet supper (only \$15—call the office if you would like to eat with us); go on to the brief business meeting (we are requesting a small raise in the dues, because of increased Per-Member Payments to both the California and U.S. Leagues); and the program at 7:00 will feature a panel of young voters discussing how we get folks like them involved in the issues and out to vote in November. Please come; you'll really enjoy yourself.

We are in “high election season” now, providing speakers, moderating panels and producing *Pros and Cons* and *Vote with the League* materials. There is doubtless something you can do to help in this effort, as we need many volunteers in all capacities. Call the League office and say what you might like to do and someone will get back to sign you up. This is, after all, the core function of the League.

As I said in my initial President's Column last month, it is such a pleasure to be President of a venerable organization like ours, so well established and highly respected. The most fun, though, is hanging out with the members, for whom I have such a high regard.

Come join us in doing our part to assure a well-informed electorate and a fair political process.

— Sherry Smith, President

NEW MEMBERS

A very warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

<i>Julia Chung</i>	<i>Christine B. Green</i>
<i>Carol Talbek</i>	<i>Gail Townsley</i>

COMMUNITY COLLEGE UPDATE

Vista is celebrating its 30th birthday in a big way this year. The college is planning a blast, and the entire community will be invited to share in bringing our new campus building to life.

As of this writing, (Sept. 1), plans are for a birthday party with singing and dancing at Ashkenaz on December 2 at 8 PM. Invitations will probably be going out in late October.

Watch for yours!

Helene Lecar, Chair, Community College
Committee

DONATIONS DURING AUGUST

To the General Fund

<i>Jane & Arthur Bergen</i>	<i>Fran Packard</i>
<i>Louetta Erlin</i>	<i>Ruthann & Clyde Taylor</i>
<i>Angharad Jones</i>	<i>Elsa Tranter</i>
<i>Wilma Jordan</i>	<i>Mary Wallmann</i>

To the LWVB Foundation

<i>Jane & Arthur Bergen</i>	<i>Anita Navon</i>
<i>Eva Brecher</i>	<i>Louise Rasmussen</i>
<i>Angharad Jones</i>	<i>Rosalind Singer</i>

To the Tribute Fund

*Jane & Tom Coulter – in memory of Emma
Lue Kopp*

*In honor of Nancy & Peter Bickel's
40th Wedding Anniversary:*

<i>Elizabeth Balderston</i>	<i>Theodora Hodges</i>
<i>Mary Lou & Leo Breiman</i>	<i>Judith Chernoff</i>
<i>Joan & David Hollinger</i>	<i>Jessica Klass</i>
<i>Jane & Tom Coulter</i>	<i>Jean Safir</i>
<i>Judith Duffield</i>	<i>Susan & Richard Ohlsen</i>
<i>Eva & Alex Glazer</i>	<i>Sherry Smith</i>
<i>Wendy Greenberg</i>	<i>Ruthann & Clyde Taylor</i>

EXCERPTS FROM LWV BAY AREA VOTER — AUGUST, 2004

The Continuing Saga of the Transbay Terminal

The primary party appealing the certification of the EIR for the new Transbay Terminal is the owner of a parcel at 80 Natoma [San Francisco] that was identified in the EIR for acquisition because it is in the path of the underground tracks for the CalTrain extension and future High Speed Rail. The owner, Myers Development Co., had not even commented on the draft EIR. The final was certified in April. Early in May, they began construction on the site claiming they had entitlements for a 51-story condo tower. Those entitlements were challenged and in June the San Francisco Building Dept. issued a "Stop Work" order to review the entitlements.

Engineers worked on proposals that could accommodate both the tower and the train. A concrete box could be built that would allow construction above it but the box would have had to be built first and it would be a couple of years before it could be completed. But Myers insisted no delay would be tolerated. The only way to possibly accommodate the continuation of construction would be to decrease the radius of the track and build a complex costly retaining wall. This would have shortened the station's track meaning only short trains could be accommodated or people in the last cars would have to drag their luggage through other cars to detrain. Since Transbay Joint Powers Board's responsibility to the public is to deliver the most efficient and cost effective project, they have little choice but to acquire the property. Their offer of \$32.2 million has been rejected by the developer. The next step to move this project forward will be to start the process of eminent domain.

—Joyce Roy, LWVBA

Proposed Land-Use Guidelines for Transit Station Areas

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is considering a new policy that would condition the release of discretionary transit funds on the adoption by local municipalities of transit-supportive zoning guidelines. The guidelines would only apply to projects in the Regional Transit Expansion Policy (RTEP), also known as Resolution 3434. The RTEP will be expanded to include projects in Regional Measure 2, such as ferry terminals.

The Transportation and Land Use Coalition (TALC) is proposing specific land-use guidelines to MTC that would apply to transit station areas, and the LWVBA, as a member of TALC, has been asked to endorse these guidelines.

Proposed Goals

Land Uses and Residential Densities Around Transit Stations and Stops

1. Improved accessibility to transit and increased transit ridership, by providing for higher density/higher intensity, walkable communities near transit stations and stops.
2. Encourage a mix of transit-supportive residential, commercial, and employment opportunities, to make transit-oriented development attractive to a wider market.

Infill Housing and Housing Affordability

1. Efficiently use the land within walking distance of a transit station to provide housing, meet regional housing needs, and better encourage transit ridership.
2. Provide housing that meets the needs of people at all incomes and that includes both rental and sale units.

Retail and Office

1. Provide for neighborhood-serving retail that is primarily supported by households and office workers within the Transit Zones
2. Encourage uses with greater employment density and design that encourages transit ridership.
3. Prevent incompatible uses, such as big box and other regional retail that generates mostly vehicular traffic and discourages transit use.

Parking

1. Minimize the amount of land dedicated to parking, while still providing sufficient access to stations.
2. Encourage station access by walking, biking and transit.

Pedestrian and Bike Friendly Environment

1. Encourage transit ridership, bicycle and pedestrian activity, and access for people with disabilities by providing high levels of access, safety, and continuity for pedestrians and bicyclists in the transit area.

LWVBA supports these goals for development around transit stations, but we have not studied, nor are we as an organization informed sufficiently, to sign on to the very specific zoning criteria recommended by TALC. LWVBA Board decided that we will issue our own separate statement in support of the goals, but will decline to endorse the specific TALC policy recommendations.

EXCERPTS FROM LWV BAY AREA VOTER — SEPTEMBER, 2004

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SEPTEMBER, 2004

The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area believes that government at the regional level should be structured so that it can effectively and responsibly solve those problems that transcend political boundaries. Our long-established position favors the creation of a multi-purpose planning agency for the Bay Area, or in the interim, consolidation of existing regional agencies. Yet those goals are not on the horizon; in fact, the prospect of these occurring seems to be moving farther and farther away.

In the meantime, we're trying to advance the "regional viewpoint" for both local land use decision-making and issues that transcend local boundaries, such as transportation system planning, air quality, quality of the bay, etc. Current projects we're monitoring include the connection between land use and transportation planning which is moving forward in MTC's development of its Transportation 2030 Plan, and taking a new look at the status of regional planning in the Bay Area with the formation of the ABAG-MTC Joint Policy Committee. We'll keep you posted on these in the coming months.

— Linda Craig, LWVBA President

LWVBA ACTION HIGHLIGHTS

Ballot Measures

On the November 2004 ballot, the LWV Bay Area supports, and has signed ballot arguments in favor of, Measure BB, AC Transit Parcel Tax increase and extension, and Measure CC, East Bay Regional Park District Parcel Tax in Area 1 (primarily along the west side of the District). As of this writing, we have not yet taken a position on the BART general obligation bond measure for seismic retrofitting, but will let every League in the District know if we decide to do so at a later date.

With the consent of LWV California, LWVBA also wrote a letter to the California High Speed Rail Authority requesting that all alternatives for the HSR project in Northern California should be analyzed in the EIR, including the Altamont Pass route.

GET INVOLVED WITH REGIONAL ISSUES

The board of LWVBA is looking for some good women or men to serve on the board. The position of **Administrative VP** and **Educ. Fund/Monitor VP** are vacant. If you or someone you know may be interested, contact Jane Bergen, Chair of Nominating Committee, at (510) 848-3954 or e-mail bergen@berkeley.edu.

Saving Regional Measure 2

- Bay Bridge Cost Overrun -

Ten days before the end of the Legislative Session, Gov. Schwarzenegger proposed legislation to require the Bay Area, instead of the State of California, to pay for the entire remaining cost of the SF Bay Bridge reconstruction, which is substantially over budget.

Part of his solution was to ask the Bay Area voters on this November ballot to approve the use of the Regional Measure 2 increase of \$1 in bridge tolls, just approved in March 2004, for the Bay Bridge instead of for the projects that were identified in the measure. LWVBA, which signed the argument in favor of RM2, along with the Transportation and Land Use Coalition, launched an effort to protect RM2 projects, and to protect the Bay Area transportation ballot measures on the November ballot in 5 counties and BART from a competing transportation funding measure.

We went to Sacramento for a day of lobbying on Monday, August 23, and LWVBA's letter to the editor was printed in both the *SF Chronicle* and *San Jose Mercury News*. As of the close of the session, a bill to arrange enough money to award the bid on the east-span tower, pending an audit of the cost overruns, passed the Senate but did not get through the Assembly before adjournment. The Governor's proposal did not get out of an Assembly Committee, so there will be no measure on the Nov. ballot, and RM 2 is saved for now. There is still no solution about how to pay for the remainder of the Bay Bridge project. Stay tuned.

— Linda Craig, LWVBA President

BAY AND BEYOND

The Bay Area population of nearly seven million people in nine counties is served by twenty-one local leagues, which all come under the umbrella of The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area.

To see the Bay Area VOTER and their other publications online, or to access the LWV Bay Area website links to our sister Leagues, type <http://www.lwvba-ca.org> in your browser. At the bottom of the home page is a link that will take you to other League websites.

To ask to receive the Bay Area VOTER as an e-mail, contact voter@lwvba-ca.org.

Over the coming months, this column will highlight what other Leagues are doing in the Bay Area, as well as actions at the state and national level.

— *Lea Barker, VOTER Editor*

FROM LWVC E-MAIL UPDATE

Energy Study Schedule Changed

In response to concerns by local leagues and others, the LWVC Board voted at its July meeting on a motion to revise the schedule for the energy study. Local Leagues will not be expected to conduct the consensus process in the fall of 2004.

Rather, local leagues will conduct the consensus process in fall or spring of 2005. The exact timing will be published in a future UPDATE. This extension of time will allow the energy group to fully develop the energy study kit and will allow local leagues more time to prepare for the consensus process.

Energy Papers On LWVC Members Only Website

The Energy Study Committee has produced four papers on the current state of electrical energy in California. They are posted on the LWVC Web site in the Members Only area. Two more papers will be posted in the near future. These papers are important for League members and you are encouraged to read them.

— Jack Sullivan, LWVC

CIVICS EDUCATION STUDY

The LWVBAE Civics Ed Study group has focused its efforts over the summer to finalize the questions we want to ask, and we're ready to start collecting the answers. This is an interested, active group, but we could use more members since we have three school districts to cover.

Anyone who is interested in joining us, should give *Jinky Gardner* a call at 548-5292, get yourself onto our e-mail list, and come to the next meeting at 2339 Edwards St., Berkeley on **Wednesday, October 13th** from **7-9 p.m.**

Three Ways to Make Voting a Breeze

CALL AHEAD Call the elections office or board of elections for your county, city or state to make sure you're registered to vote and to find out where your polling place is. Or check their Web site.

AVOID THE CROWDS If you can, go to the polls during off hours: 10 a.m.–11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. That's when it's likely to be less crowded.

TAKE A FRIEND TO VOTE Why go alone when you can take a friend or loved one to vote too?

SUPPORT THE LEAGUE WITH SCRIP

One of the major sources of income for the Berkeley, Albany, Emeryville League of Women Voters is the purchase of Andronico's Scrip. For every \$100 purchased by a League member, \$6 comes back to the League. It is also possible to order Scrip Advantage for Longs Drug, Whole Foods, Eddie Bauer, Barnes and Noble, Home Depot, Men's Wearhouse, Old Navy, Tower Records and Williams Sonoma. For most of these businesses \$8 comes back to the League for every \$100 purchased. Travel cards are available from Marriott to be used for reservations, gift shops, spas or green fees, worldwide. For each \$50 card purchased, \$5 comes back to the League.

If you are interested in supporting the League through any of these businesses, please contact *Ruthann Taylor* at 527-0673 or by email at cetaylor7@comcast.net

CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

October

2	Sat.	9:30 – 1:30 pm	Know Your Bay Area Day	SF Bay Model Visitor Center, Sausalito	Office, 843-8824
6	Wed.	7 - 9 pm	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	S. Smith, 548-1769
8	Friday	Noon	Deadline for November VOTER	lwvbae@pacbell.net	Barker, 532-5773
8	Friday	5:30-7:30 pm	Peralta Community College, Districts 4&6 Candidate Forum	Vista College Annex, Room 145	Lecar, 549-9719
11	Mon.		LWVBAE Office closed for Columbus Day		
11	Mon.	7:30 pm	Environmental Concerns	1340 Arch St. (Bansner)	Stone, 549-0959
13	Wed.	7 – 9 pm	Civics Education Study	2339 Edwards	Gardner, 548-5292
14	Thurs.	7:30 pm	Action Committee	1419 Grant (Watts)	Safir, 524-9088
14	Thurs.	7:30 – 9 pm	Berkeley School Board Candidate Forum		Gardner, 548-5292
18	Mon.	5 pm	LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE NOV. 2 GENERAL ELECTION		
19	Tues.	6:30 – 8 pm	Ballot Measure Pros and Cons (For members and friends)	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room 1247 Marin	Gardner, 548-5292
20	Wed.	1 – 3 pm	Ballot Measure Pros and Cons (For members and friends)	Albany Library, Edith Stone Room 1247 Marin	Gardner, 548-5292
26	Tues.	5 pm	LAST DAY TO REQUEST ABSENTEE BALLOT FROM REGISTRAR OF VOTERS		

November

2	Tues.	7 am – 8 pm	ELECTION DAY 2004	LWVBAE Office	843-8824
3	Wed.	7 – 9 pm	Board Meeting	LWVBAE Office	S. Smith, 548-1769
5	Friday	Noon	Deadline for Dec-Jan VOTER	lwvbae@pacbell.net	Barker, 532-5773



IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip and mail this information to us with your check for annual dues made out to: **\$55**

LWVBAE
1414 University Avenue, Suite D
Berkeley, CA 94702-1509

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel. Day: _____ Eve: _____

Fax: _____ E-Mail: _____

Joining the local level makes you a member at all levels: LWVBAE, Bay Area, State and National. Dues and contributions to the League are not tax deductible. Contributions to the LWVB Foundation are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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