

# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY  
and EMERYVILLE



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

President: Jo Ann B. Price

November, 2000

Editor: Bob Hawley

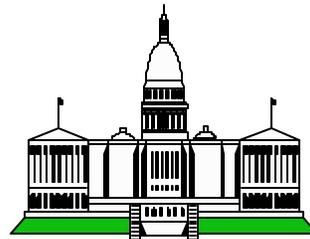
## State Election Systems Study - The League in the forefront of a rapidly developing area of governmental interest

The League of Women Voters of California study of voting systems for electing legislative bodies and executive officers at both the state and local levels is under way. Consensus meetings will be held in the spring of 2001. The focus is a comparison and evaluation of different voting systems including plurality-majority, semi-proportional, and proportional systems that have been used both in the U.S. and around the world. The study kit is adapted in part from the draft of a book in progress "Behind the Ballot Box: A Citizen's Guide to Voting Systems" by Professor Douglas J. Amy, Department of Politics, Mount Holyoke College.

The impetus for this study is an attempt to reverse the shocking trend of decreasing voters and to promote the election method(s) that would best make every citizen's vote count. Educating citizens about this will help to lay the groundwork for positive democratic changes. Working on this, as well as campaign finance reform, will help LWV bring about important changes that should encourage the average citizen to take more of a role in electing governmental representatives. If you want to be involved with the "cutting edge of democratic reform," you must join this study!

- p. 2 President's Column
- Board Briefs
- p. 3 Local Peralta Study
- Join State Committee
- Speaker Series
- p. 4 Donors
- New Members
- Personals
- Election Volunteers
- Environmental Concerns
- p. 5 Annual Financial Reports
- p. 6 Calendar

Insert - LWV Recommends  
Selected Ballot Measures



👉 Vote On November 7 👈

### President's Column

#### Is the League of Women Voters Vital to Democracy in the 21st Century?

Is the League of Women Voters meeting the challenge of this higher speed, higher tech, better-educated, multi-ethnic, digitally-divided, and 2-person-income family American society at the beginning of this 21st century?

The challenges presently facing our democratic society are newer versions of old problems that will never completely go away, such as: corruption; undue influence; corporate money; arrogance of power; immediate gain that betrays the future; demagoguery; conflict of interest; and just, apolitical constitutional interpretation. Reading history makes it clear that these challenges are part of the human condition that re-appear with every generation, every era, and at every level of government.

What the League has to offer is a timeless, nonpartisan, integral approach that works by researching the issues; formalizing general policy positions from which specific stands can be taken on the issues as they arise; followed by League education and action, such as lobbying and testifying before Congress, state legislatures, and city councils.

Since its emergence in 1920 as the natural outgrowth of the suffragist movement and the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that gave women the right to vote, the League of Women Voters has accomplished much. In fact its emphasis on women taking their rightful and active place in all aspects of society has contributed significantly to the high level of participation by women in today's political, cultural, economic, governmental, and non-profit worlds. However, there still remains a great deal to be done.

The measure of the League's success in educating citizens to play their role in our democracy could be seen in the recent election. More and more single-issue groups and other organizations registered voters, sponsored candidates nights and issues forums, and urged citizens to vote. Will increase in these activities put us out of business? Not if we remain true to our mission, for this is a "ripple effect" that only magnifies the work we are doing. We must continue to educate citizens to understand: the need to rate candidates on their record, experience, positions, accessibility, and willingness to debate openly, rather than just on their personality and assertions; the importance of a realistic assessment

### Board Briefs

At its September meeting, the Board:

- Agreed that *Marcelle Baxter* should serve as Board Secretary and *Evelyn Light* as Board Director-at-Large.
- Agreed that *Ginette Polak*, Membership Director, and *Evelyn Light*, Director-at-Large, will serve as the Board representatives on the Nominating Committee.
- Thanked *Ruth Ganong* for providing refreshments.
- Heard *Phoebe Watts*, Voter Service Chair, report on the League's extensive election activities; plans for writing and publishing our local Pros & Cons; and likely dates for receiving the state League's Pros & Cons and Easy Reading Voter Guide.
- Heard *Helene Lecar*, Education Director, report on Mock Election activities.
- Reviewed plans for the Fall General Meeting and the adoption of the 3 new positions/updates regarding: Instant Runoff Voting, Housing, and Vista Community College.
- Agreed to oppose Berkeley's Measure Y on Rent Eviction Control and to support Measure Z on Low-Rent Housing.
- Heard Membership Director *Ginette Polak's* report and information about a late October new/prospective member orientation coffee.
- Heard Special Events Director *Karen Olson's* report on the 2nd Annual Community Luncheon.
- Heard President *Price's* official announcement of VP for Administration *Jody Hinshaw's* emergency resignation and the need for all requests for our Administrative Assistant's time to go through the President until a new Administrative VP is named.

-*Marcelle M. Baxter*, Secretary

of 60-second political commercials, hit pieces, and sound bites; and the need to know who are the major contributors to a candidate or campaign.

The League at all levels must maintain its reputation as a source of information with a history of integrity and public trust, as well as a membership organization for men and women of all political, religious, ethnic, and sexual backgrounds. If we do this, we'll readily be able to answer the challenges we face at the beginning of this new century.

(Inspired by an editorial in the Philadelphia "Inquirer", September 25, 2000.) -**Jo Ann**

## Local Study of the Peralta Community College District

The second year of a 2-year study of Vista Community College and the Peralta Community College District is under way. The Committee welcomes new members and promises a useful and interesting experience. This is an important time in California for the future of the community college system in general, and of Peralta in particular. Please join us on Wednesday, November 22, from 1 to 3 pm, at my home (1119 Grizzly Peak Blvd.) to kick off the second phase of this important study.

-*Helene Lecar*, Chair

## Join the State Election Systems Study Committee

An exciting study of the democratic election systems in use throughout the world today and their possible application to California is under way among the 72 local Leagues in California. Please see this issue's lead article for more details and then plan to become involved. The first meeting of the study committee will be on Thursday, November 16, at 7:30 pm at the League office. With the holidays fast upon us, not much work is expected until January. However, this meeting will acquaint people with the concepts involved; and background reading materials will be distributed. Join us for a fascinating study!

-*John Reynolds*, Chair

## Speaker Series

### The "New" Berkeley Library Thursday, November 9, 2000 Albany Library, Noon to 2 pm

The "new" **Berkeley Main Library** is the subject of our November Speaker Series. Speakers include Director *Adelia Lines*, Project Manager (for the Main Library) Elena Engel, and Branch Services Manager Audrey Powers.

We will hear about plans for opening the Main Library, after more than a year of being closed for renovation, improvement, and building an addition. We will also learn about the new and expanded services and facilities that will be available; about the role of the Berkeley Public Library Foundation; and about plans for the branch libraries, depending on whether the bond measure passes or fails on the November 7 election ballot. Since the meeting will be at the Albany Library, we have asked Albany's chief librarian also to be present to tell us about comparable services and facilities.

The meeting will take place from noon to 2 pm on the second Thursday of the month - our regular time for Speaker Series - in the Edith Stone Room of the Albany Public Library, 1247 Marin Avenue, at the corner of Masonic Avenue. Bring lunch, if you wish; the Speaker Series committee will provide fruit juice. Lots of parking is available, and a bus line is a block away on Solano Avenue. Or call me if you would like a ride.

\* \* \* \* \*

The first meeting of the season (on September 14) gave members a chance to learn about the many community service programs conducted by the **UC Berkeley YWCA**. Three of their staff members - Jane Abraham, Barbara Helm, and Charlene VanNess - spoke to us about career training, youth mentoring, and dance lessons.

Abraham and Helm spoke particularly about "English in Action," the largest program at the Y. Designed to help foreign students and members of their families practice English, this program has been going on for 35 years. Meetings between a volunteer and a foreign partner take place about once a week, at locations that allow a relaxed atmosphere for both parties.

Abraham talked about the pleasures and other rewards inherent in the program and invited **anyone interested in being a volunteer to please contact her at 843-9716**. Last year they had just under 1,000 foreign participants and about 490 volunteers.

-*Jean Safir*, Speaker Series Coordinator

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



Short Sleeve - \$15

Long Sleeve - \$20

Tote Bags - \$18

Shirts are available in extra-large size ONLY

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

## Donors Through September

### General Fund

<i>Joyce Baldwin</i>	<i>Ora Huth</i>
<i>Felicia Bock</i>	<i>Wilma Jordan</i>
<i>Linda Burden</i>	<i>Mary and Sedgewick Mead*</i>
<i>Marylyn Coons</i>	<i>Fran Packard</i>
<i>Muriel Formichelli*</i>	<i>Betty Parsons</i>
<i>Constance Fraser</i>	<i>Therese Pipe</i>
<i>Nanine Greene</i>	<i>Theodora Raab*</i>
<i>Elaine B. Grossberg</i>	<i>Todd Smith</i>
<i>Bruce Harris</i>	<i>Myrna Walton</i>
<i>Irene Hegarty</i>	

\* In Memory of *Jean Dehlinger*

## Welcome To New Members

*Betty J. Hicks*                      *Norine M. Smith*

## Personals

Train Schickele, son of *Gail* and David, grandson of *Beth*, is carrying on his family musical heritage. Train is the youngest of several 5-year-old members of the San Francisco Boys Choir. David, now deceased, was an accomplished composer and violist, and David's brother, Peter, is better known as P. D. Q. Bach.

*Evelyn Light* was very favorably impressed with Iceland, where she toured the entire island. She especially appreciated the purity of the drinking water. *Susan Schwartz* was named a Local Legacy at the last Albany-Berkeley Solano Stroll in recognition of her work with Five Creeks.

-*Eleanor Cox*, Corresponding Secretary

## Election Volunteers Get Out Voter Information

One of the League's largest projects is to encourage citizens to vote, right from registering them to informing them about the candidates and the ballot measures through the printed word (Pros and Cons) and producing meetings with candidates that people can attend live, or view on cable television.

We want to extend special thanks to the Leaguers who have participated in this intensive effort. They have registered voters, written and distributed Pros and Cons, organized and run candidates forums, and gone out to the neighborhoods as part of the Speakers Bureau: *Polly Amrein, Eva Bansner, Jane Bergen, Nancy Bickel, Eloise Bodine, Eva Brecher, Lois Brubeck, Karen Carlson-Olson, Doris Fine, Neil Goldstein, Jody Hinshaw, Pat Kuhi, Helene Lecar, Evelyn Light, Ruth Maguire, Jill Martinucci, Doris Maslach, Lessly Wikle, Allie Norton, Nina Olson, Fran Packard, Ginette Polak, Jo Ann Price, Susan Schwartz, Marsha Skinner, Sherry Smith, Ruthann Taylor, Carol Voisin, Pat Wadleigh, Kjersten Walker, Phoebe Watts, and Masako Yamada.*

Some have done multiple tasks over many days. Some are still joining the effort. We will publish further names for thank-yous in the next edition of the *Voter*.

-*Sherry Smith*, VP, Community Services



## League Continues Look into our Basic Relationship with Land and Food

This fall the Environmental Concerns Committee turned its attention to environmental issues that touch all of our lips, tongues, and guts with a series on the sources of sustenance. All Leaguers and interested friends are encouraged to attend.

In October League members heard from Gail Feenstra of UC Davis Sustainable Agriculture and Education Program on sustainable production practices; equitable compensation for workers; and the role of the community in food policies. In November, Mark Linder, President of Food, Land and People, an educational organization located at the Presidio, will comment on the environmentalist and consumer concerns about our food and agricultural system. He will identify the role of science and education in resolving the contention between agriculture, education and the environment. Also mark your calendar for **December 11** when we will hear from Erik Vink of the American Farmland Trust on "Population Growth and Farmland Conversion in California With Special Focus on the Central Valley." -*Eva Bansner*, Environmental Concerns

**FINANCIAL REPORTS TO MEMBERS**

For Fiscal Year July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2000

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY, ALBANY AND EMERYVILLE  
FUND BALANCES**

Fund	Balance 7/1/99	Receipts	Disbursements	Balance 6/30/00
General Fund*	\$67,295	\$54,397	\$46,146	\$75,546
Tribute Fund	4,426	1,115	220	5,321
Endowment	<u>39,100</u>	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>42,100</u>
<b>TOTAL Funds</b>	<b>\$110,821</b>	<b>\$58,512</b>	<b>\$46,366</b>	<b>\$122,967</b>

\* General Fund includes Current Operating Fund, Lease Deposit, and Misc. Assets

**COMBINED ASSETS**

	On 7/1/99	Increase/(decrease)	On 6/30/00
Union Bank Checking	\$ 2,993	\$ 175	\$ 3,168
Money Market Funds	0	31,413	31,413
Fidelity Fund	0	29,105	29,105
Fidelity Balanced Fund	0	32,500	32,500
Fidelity Intl. Growth Fund	0	27,568	27,568
AmerCent Money Market	37,629	(37,629)	0
Benham GMNA Fund	31,697	(31,697)	0
AmerCent Eq Growth	36,749	(36,749)	0
Other Assets*	<u>1,753</u>	<u>255</u>	<u>2,008</u>
Year-End Liabilities**	0	(2,795)	(2,795)
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$ 110,821</b>	<b>\$ 12,146</b>	<b>\$ 122,967</b>

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

\*\* Liabilities cover convention costs not reimbursed to members until September, 2000

Submitted by *Beth Springston*, Treasurer**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BERKELEY FOUNDATION  
FUND BALANCES**

	Balance 7/1/99	Balance 6/30/00	Changes	
Checking Account	\$ 657	\$ 147	Contributions	\$ 5,197
Money Market	7,986	6,386	Investments	3,167
AmerCent.Income/Growth	34,996	36,298	To LWVBAE	(7,877)
AmerCent. Balanced	<u>18,234</u>	<u>19,504</u>	Other Expenses	<u>(25)</u>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>	<b>\$61,873</b>	<b>\$62,335</b>	Increase	<b>\$ 462</b>

Submitted by *Miriam Hawley*, Treasurer

- Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated -

## October

- 25 Wed. 4:30-6pm Executive Committee LWVBAE office (Price)  
 28 Sat. 10am-noon New and Prospective Members Orientation Coffee  
 LWVBAE office (Polak)  
 30 Mon. 7:30-8:30pm Berkeley Rent Board Candidates Meeting  
 B-TV/live audience (Watts)

## November

- 1 Wed. 9:15am-12:15pm Board Meeting Emery Bay Clubhouse  
 53rd St. at Emery Bay Drive, Emeryville (Price)  
 2 Thur. High Schools Mock Election (Lecar)  
 3 Fri. Deadline for December/January Voter (Hawley)  
 7 Tues. **Election Day 2000** Polls open 7am-8pm (Watts)  
 9 Thur. noon-2pm Speaker Series, The "New" Berkeley Main Library  
 Albany Library/Edith Stone Room (Safir)  
 10 Fri. 9:30am-noon Development Committee LWVBAE office (Wainwright)  
 13 Mon. 7:15pm Environmental Concerns (Bansner)  
 15 Wed. 9 am-noon Action Committee (Sprague)  
 16 Thur. 7 pm State Election Systems Study LWVBAE Office (Reynolds)  
 17 Fri. 1-3pm Education Committee LWVBAE Office (Wallach)  
 22 Wed. 1-3pm Community College Study (Lecar)  
 22 Wed. 1 pm **Office Closes for Thanksgiving Holiday Until Monday, November 28**  
 29 Wed. 4:30pm-6pm Executive Committee LWVBAE Office (Price)

## December

- 6 Wed. 9:15am-12:15pm Board Meeting Emery Bay Clubhouse  
 53rd St. at Emery Bay Drive, Emeryville (Price)  
 11 Mon. 7:15pm Environmental Concerns (Bansner)  
 14 Thur. noon-2pm Speaker Series, Albany Library/Edith Stone Room (Safir)



# League of Women Voters Recommendations

## For Selected November 2000 Ballot Measures

### State Propositions

**NO on 34 - Campaign Contributions & Spending:** Repeals most of Prop. 208, just when it is likely to survive court challenges and go into effect. Replaces Prop. 208's reasonable contribution limits with ones among the highest in the nation. Contains loopholes that allow almost unlimited amounts of money to be routed to candidates through parties. Has no limits for "soft money" or "independent expenditures", the loopholes that allow big interests to dominate campaign spending at the national level. It would not go into effect until after 2002 for statewide offices, such as Governor and Insurance Commissioner. It is a 'phony' reform that allows politicians and their paid campaign consultants to keep on doing business as usual.

**NO on 37 - Fees. Vote Requirements. Taxes:** Redefines as taxes any fees enacted by state or local government to pay for monitoring, studying or mitigating environmental, societal or economic effects of business activity that causes pollution, etc. These local taxes would generally require a 2/3 vote of the electorate, and the state taxes would need a 2/3 vote of the Legislature. Would make it likely that the cost of dealing with pollution would be passed on to taxpayers. Opponents call it the "Pollution Protection Act".

**NO on 38 - State-Funded School Vouchers for Private & Religious Education:** State would pay at least \$4,000 per pupil for qualifying private and religious schools. Severely restricts state's ability to regulate private schools. Voucher schools would not have to meet state educational standards or building and safety codes. Teachers would not need to be credentialed or even have a college degree. Permits voucher schools to choose which students they would accept. Would hurt neighborhood schools by shifting taxpayer money to private schools. It weakens the public school system and does not provide equal access to education for all our children.

**YES on 39 - 55% Vote for Local School Bonds, Accountability Requirements:** Would set the vote required for passage of local school bonds at 55%, rather than the present 2/3. Has strict accountability standards. School districts would have to provide voters with a detailed plan of projects to be funded; requires independent financial and performance audits of those plans. Funds could not be used for administration. Caps property tax raises resulting from passage of a local school bond. This measure does not itself raise taxes; it simply makes it easier for local voters to determine what their local school needs are.

## Local Ballot Measures

### Alameda County

**YES on B - Transportation Tax:** Would authorize continuing the 1/2 cent transportation sales tax while implementing County's 20-year transportation expenditure plan. Includes expansion of BART in the county; expansion of countywide express, local and feeder bus service; special transit services for seniors and persons with disabilities; money for local streets, roads and highways; improvement of pedestrian/bike safety. The revised plan allots more than 50% to projects not related to automobiles, and thus has broad backing from Sierra Club and many transit groups. A 2/3 vote is necessary.

### Berkeley Unified School District

**YES on AA - School Bonds:** Would authorize \$116,500,000 in bonds to repair, upgrade and add new classrooms. Repairs would be made to deteriorated floors, windows, roofs, etc.; science labs would be modernized. New classrooms would relieve the overcrowding caused by class size reduction and the past and expected increase in student population. Measure A in 1992 addressed only the most urgent seismic problems; its moneys have all been spent or allocated. These new bonds would essentially carry the present tax rate out for an additional 25 years. A 2/3 vote is necessary.

### City of Albany

**YES on N - Emergency Medical Services Tax:** Would increase the current Emergency Medical Services Tax by \$18 per residential unit per year to fund ambulance services and improved Life Support Service. Well worth the small tax increase. A 2/3 vote is necessary.

### City of Berkeley

**YES on P - Bonds for Branch Libraries:** Would authorize issuance of \$5,200,000 in bonds to renovate, expand and upgrade Branch Libraries. Bonds would be issued only if state library improvement funds paid for at least 65% of any proposed project. Measure S in 1996 included no funds for the heavily used Branch Libraries. A 2/3 vote is needed.

**YES on V - Gann Limit Override for Library Tax:** Would re-authorize the City, over a 4-year period, to spend the Library Tax approved by voters in 1988. Required by state law, it entails no new taxes. The moneys are needed to continue the many valued programs and services, restored after drastic cuts caused by Prop. 13. A majority vote is required.

**YES on W - Gann Override for Parks Maintenance Tax:** Would allow the City, over next four years, to spend Parks Maintenance Tax as approved by voters in 1977. As with Measure V, a state requirement and entails no new taxes. A majority vote is required.

**YES on X - Gann Override for Emergency Medical Services:** Another reauthorization similar to V and W above, with no new tax implication. The tax was approved by voters in 1997. A majority vote is required.

**NO on Y - Rent Eviction Control:** Would amend rent ordinance to restrict landlord's ability to evict for landlord/relative occupancy. Put on the ballot by seriously flawed process, the measure is biased against small property owners and may harm the very tenants it means to help. A majority vote is required.

**YES on Z - Low Rent Housing:** Would empower any federal, state or local public entity to develop, construct or acquire an additional 500 units of low-rent housing in Berkeley for low-income persons. A simple enabling measure; any specific project would still need City Council approval. Necessary because private market will not produce essential low-income housing without public funds. A majority vote is required.