



# The VOTER

LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS  
of BERKELEY, ALBANY and EMERYVILLE

President: JINKY GARDNER

NOVEMBER 2006

Editors: ALICE KISCH and JANE BRANDES

## WILL OUR NOVEMBER 7 VOTES COUNT?

The short answer is yes.

League members in Alameda County have been observing and working closely with the Registrar of Voters Office (ROV) for more than a year and a half to make sure that our election system is working well. Guiding our work has been the LWVUS standard – SARA – voting systems should be Secure, Accurate, Recountable and Accessible, as well as the basic League tenet that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. Four League members serve on the ROV’s Citizen’s Advisory Committee; two League members serve on the ROV’s Logic and Accuracy Board, including our own webmaster, *Bill Chapman*.

Overall, League observers found the ACROV conscientious and meticulous in carrying out its work. Election equipment and software are only part of an election system. Well trained staff and systematic procedures are key elements; they are essential to carry out a secure and accurate election. New Acting ROV Dave Macdonald, who also heads the County’s IT Department, has expanded and improved the tracking and testing of equipment and systems, upgraded the training of the existing staff and brought with him from IT staff with computer expertise. An independent firm was hired to do a vulnerability assessment. The firm identified only a few weak points that the ROV needed to correct. The

report is posted on the web at [http://accurate-voting.org/wpcontent/uploads/2006/10/alameda\\_sequoia\\_vuln.pdf](http://accurate-voting.org/wpcontent/uploads/2006/10/alameda_sequoia_vuln.pdf).

A full report of League observations of the November 2005 election, “How Our Votes Are Counted,” is posted on the Web at [http://www.lwvbae.org/acc\\_rov.htm](http://www.lwvbae.org/acc_rov.htm). Although some details of the system described in this report will change at this election, the overall descriptions will still be relevant.

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The election season is a busy one for us in the League, and I've really been enjoying my chance to "get in the trenches!" During this past month, I've gone out as a Pros and Cons speaker. The people that came to our presentation at Watergate in Emeryville peppered us with questions, and really kept *Jody Bush* and me on our toes. Despite the fact that we went on beyond the announced time, interest and attention lasted until every Measure was covered.

Last weekend, we had a table at the Spice of Life Festival. Several of our members staffed the table, and a few more walked the street handing out flyers about how the League recommends to vote. So many people were coming up to our booth and our walkers asking for the printed "Pros and Cons" and the "League Recommends" flyers that I had to make not one, but two runs up to the Festival to keep them stocked. Our voice is a respected one.

Just this morning I had an absolute ball helping *Helene Lecar* and her crew run the student body election at Willard Middle School. The students were required to go through a simple registration process in order to receive a ballot which they then took to a booth before marking it. It took explaining the process over and over, but they got it, and it was exciting to see that generation take their first steps toward participatory citizenship.

Well, back to the trenches; but before I close, let me say THANKS to all of the rest of you who are doing your bits too. None of us could do half as much without the support and camaraderie from each other.

*Jinky Gardner*, President

## PROS and CONS

The local Pros and Cons is out and, as usual, was prepared by a real team of pros. *Jean Safir* capably wrote the Pros and Cons for the two Albany initiatives. The two Dorises, *Doris Nassiry* and *Doris Fine*, did an excellent job with Alameda County Measure A, and the Berkeley initiatives were handled by a stellar cast: Elena Alderman (a senior at Berkeley High School who volunteered to do the write-up, even though she won't be eligible to vote until 2007), *Rachelle DiStefano*, *Mim Hawley*, *Fran Packard* and *Ginette Polak*. *Jody Bush* did a great job editing the draft, and *Marj Rubinow* and *Evelyn Light* did an

outstanding job proofreading our final draft.

### The VOTER

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LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
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The VOTER is free to members, \$10/year for non-members. Current and past issues of the VOTER are posted on our website: <http://lwvbae.org/>.

*The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages the active and informed participation of citizens in government and influences public*

Many thanks to all who contributed their time and energy!

*Lessly Field*  
Pros and Cons

## BOOKS NEEDED FOR BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

As many of you probably know, Berkeley City College (formerly Vista College) has moved into a beautiful new building. There is a very large library in the new facility, and they would love our help in filling it up!

Particularly needed at this time are:

- Foreign language dictionaries
- Classics
- Byron
- Chaucer
- Dante
- Fitzgerald
- Hemmingway
- Literary criticism
- African-American history and literature
- Asian-American history and literature
- Hispanic-American history and literature
- Macroeconomics & microeconomics
- Art, artists
- Film/cinema
- Books by Howard Zinn and Arundhati Roy (any titles)

I am willing to pick up donations and deliver them to the library. Books must be clean and in good condition. My telephone number is (510) 526-1154; my email is [marshaskinner@yahoo.com](mailto:marshaskinner@yahoo.com).

*Marsha Skinner*  
Albany Action

## VOTER SERVICES SO FAR

Voter services will be continuing apace when this *VOTER* is delivered in late October. We've conducted candidates' forums; we've distributed Pros and Cons and other election material to libraries, senior centers and many other locations; and today on October 8, we were registering voters at the Spice of Life Festival in Berkeley – lots of registrations today, people are realizing that the election is near, taking our literature and thanking us for the work we do. League members (notably *Sherry Smith* and *Nancy Bickel*) have been handing out "Vote with the League" at BART stations and at the Spice of Life Festival.

We've presented 18 Pro and Con talks to community organizations. And we've continued our year-round work of delivering voter registration cards to post offices, libraries and other public places.

So don't miss out on the fun! Call the office now and find out what last minute tasks you can do, such as handing out "Vote With the League" and other literature, registering voters and being in the office on Election Day (or the day before) in case we get a lot of telephone inquiries.

*Betty Hicks* and *Phoebe Watts*  
Co-Voter Services Coordinators

## OFFICE MANAGER SOUGHT FOR LWVBAE OFFICE

After many years as the League's part-time Office Manager, Karen Carlson-Olson is leaving us in order to pursue full-time professional opportunities. We are looking for someone to replace her, and it could be you.

If you focus on details and have a penchant for organizing, if you like working with many different personality types and are looking for a part-time position with flexible hours, we'd like to hear from you. You'll need a California Driver's License, and you must be computer-savvy. A knowledge of Quickbooks and Microsoft Office on a Windows PC is a plus. Salary is negotiable.

Contact *Diane Akers* ([dianeakers@aol.com](mailto:dianeakers@aol.com) or 510-524-8152) for more information. You may submit your résumé via email or send to:

*Diane Akers*  
716 Curtis Street  
Albany, CA 94706

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY LUNCHEON FOR OUR LEAGUE

The 7th Annual Community Luncheon, held on August 24, earned approximately \$13,500 for the League's general fund. Two hundred and thirty guests attended, including many colleagues of guest speaker Christopher Edley, Jr., Dean and Professor of Law at Boalt Hall School of Law, and of our "Spirit of the League" honoree, *Sylvia McLaughlin*.

We were particularly pleased to bring together so many local officials, community and League members, as well as UC professors and administrators. The League is fortunate that community leaders such as Dean Edley wish to align themselves with the League and speak at our events.

This year for the first time we had two community sponsors: East Bay Municipal Utilities District and Alameda-Contra Costa Transit; each contributed \$500. Several groups bought tables: Berkeley Public Education Foundation; Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory; *Julie Nachtwey*, Pacific Union Real Estate (2 tables); Bebe McRae; Kids for the Bay; Albany Friends of the League; *Gordon Chun* Design; and Friends of the League.

Our own League members generously contributed through "Sixth Star Circle" donations: *Ginger Alafi*, *Marylyn Coons*, *Doris Fine*, *Mim Hawley*, *Ora Huth*, *Fran Packard*, *Jo Ann Price*, *Roselyn Rosenfeld*, *Sherry Smith*, *Ruthann Taylor*, *Frances Townes*, *Lassie Ulman* and *Alba Witkin*.

Sales of items at the luncheon (tote bags, tea, note cards, copies of the Constitution) brought in an additional \$565. Once again, Cody's Books provided books covering relevant topics such as the environment and education, and generously contributed 50 percent of their sales profits to the League – \$343 this year.

The luncheon was truly a community effort – our thanks to all who helped us make it a success!

*Suzanne Chun* and *Sherry Smith*  
2006 Luncheon Committee Members

**WILL OUR NOVEMBER 7 VOTES COUNT?** (continued from p. 1)

This election will provide a strenuous test for the ACROV since the County has brand new voting machines and a new voting system, from a new vendor, Sequoia Voting Systems. The Board of Supervisors made their purchase decision only just in time for the fall election; equipment began to arrive at the end of August. The Registrar of Voters staff had to work very quickly to learn the new system, to adapt existing training for poll workers and temporary staff, train them and to study and test the new systems. Because of concerns raised by citizens about the security of electronic systems, the Board of Supervisors required the ROV to add extraordinary safeguards for this election – including independent testing and a full hand recount of all votes cast on touch screen machines.

Most votes will be cast on paper ballots – the sturdy card stock weight ballots that you may already have completed and returned as absentee voters will also be used by most voters at polling places. Immediately after filling out their ballots at the polling place, voters will insert their ballot in a scanner. If they have voted for two candidates for the same job, “overvoting”, the scanner will reject the ballot and give the voter a chance to vote correctly. When ballots are fed into the scanner, the votes are also recorded electronically. Disabled voters or voters who wish to do so will vote on a new touch screen machine which will also print their vote on a paper roll; the voter may review the printed record and may change or correct their vote before casting their ballot. Blind or visually impaired voters may vote by listening to a recorded ballot and pressing buttons on a pad to record their vote; their votes can be replayed so they can check that they voted as they wished.

The Public has the right to observe many election procedures. If you would like to observe the preparation and counting of absentee ballots, the Canvass, or the hand count of the 1% sample with more experienced League observers, please send me an email. You may also contact the ROV office directly for times and places.

*Nancy Bickel*  
nkbickel@lmi.net

**TELL ALL YOUR FRIENDS TO  
VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!**

## BROWN BAG LUNCH MEETINGS: SHALL WE?

*Luanne Rogers*, V.P. for Program, would be interested in the renaissance of an LWVBAE tradition: an hour's meeting at lunchtime for whoever is free to attend, on a topic and with a speaker of relevant or even pressing interest. Luanne says that the informal, informational sessions would help to clarify areas of interest that members wish to know more about, and would also serve to update us on the doings of our League. Luanne is investigating the Albany Public Library on Marin Avenue as a meeting place, as it is central to homes and workplaces and affords easy parking. Naturally, one could drop by the Library – or wherever – with that brown-bag lunch, and could reasonably expect to leave after an hour!

But Luanne needs to know what you think – so please email her at [luannerogers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luannerogers@sbcglobal.net) or call her at (510) 559-1006 and let her know if you are interested in a regularly scheduled brown-bag lunch series.

*Jane Brandes*  
VOTER Editor

## SEPTEMBER DONATIONS

### TO THE LWVBAE GENERAL FUND

*Janice Gulley Blumenkrantz*  
*Linda Burden*  
*Catherine Lynch*  
*Sylvia McLaughlin*  
*Elizabeth Schaaf*

### TO THE LWVBAE TRIBUTE FUND

*Elaine Grossberg*  
in memory of *Eva Brecher*  
*Dirk Neyhart*  
in memory of *Debby Neyhart*  
*Dirk Neyhart*  
in honor of *Pat Wadleigh*

### TO THE LWVB FOUNDATION

*Ann-Marie Hogan*

*Louetta Erlin*  
Donations Secretary

## NEW MEMBERS

OUR WARMEST WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

<i>Barbara Adair</i>	<i>Jean Matsuno</i>
<i>Frederick Balderston</i>	<i>Gail Peterson</i>
<i>Sheila Mary Dickie</i>	<i>Roberta Spike</i>
<i>Jean Holmer</i>	<i>Megan Thomas</i>
<i>Joyce Lashof</i>	<i>Rose Williams</i>

## BERKELEY CITY COLLEGE TOUR NOW PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 17

Last month's *VOTER* announced our campus tour date as November 10, but we've had to make room for a conference scheduled that day.

Instead, our tour is now booked for the following Friday, November 17, 10:30 am to 1 pm. College President Judy Walters will join us at lunch to talk about the new opportunities the building offers for broader curriculum offerings, community involvement and future directions for the college. Expect a lively give-and-take, as Dr. Walters wants to hear from us as well.

The tour will begin in the Atrium, right inside the door, and we will have a catered lunch in the Conference Room. The tour is free, but lunch with Dr. Walters will cost \$15.

If you signed up at the Opening Meeting, your registration will automatically continue unless you notify us otherwise. To register or change your registration, please send checks to the LWVBAE office or email *Helene Lecar* at [hlecar1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:hlecar1@ix.netcom.com).

*Helene Lecar*  
Action Chair

As *VOTER* Editor *Alice Kisch* will be out of the country from December 20 to January 20, *Bill Chapman* will be coordinating the February 2007 *VOTER*, the deadline for which is Friday, January 5, 2007, at 5 pm. Please send all submissions for the February *VOTER* to Bill at [bill@classroomtools.com](mailto:bill@classroomtools.com); Bill's telephone number is (510) 527-0877



**LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS**  
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## CALENDAR

Berkeley addresses unless otherwise indicated

### IT'S EASY TO JOIN The LEAGUE of WOMEN VOTERS

Just fill in the blanks below, clip this coupon and mail it with your check for \$65 Annual Dues made out to:

**LWVBAE**

1414 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE D  
BERKELEY, CA 94702-1509

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel. Day: \_\_\_\_\_ Eve: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Joining at 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 extent allowed by law.

#### OCTOBER

23 Mon. 5:00 pm  
24 Tues.

Last day to register to vote in November 7 election: 5 pm DEADLINE  
California Mock Elections Day  
Mock elections at Albany High School *B. Chapman, 527-0827*  
and MacGregor High School, Albany  
United Nations Day  
Action Committee, LWVBAE office *H. Lecar, 549-9719*  
Daylight Saving time ends; Standard Time resumes

26 Thurs. 7:30 pm  
29 Sun. 2:00 am

#### NOVEMBER

2 Thurs. 7-9 pm  
3 Fri. 5 pm  
7 Tues.

Board Meeting, LWVBAE office *J. Gardner, 548-5292*  
Deadline for December-January VOTER *A. Kisch, 985-0651*

11 Sat.

#### ELECTION DAY VETERANS DAY

13 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm

Environmental Concerns, 1340 Arch St., *C. Stone, 549-0959*  
Berkeley (Horst Bansner's house)

17 Fri. 10:30-1pm

Tour of new Berkeley City College, *H. Lecar, 549-9719*  
2050 Center Street, Berkeley  
Catered Lunch for \$15

23 Thurs. - 24 Fri.

THANKSGIVING - LWVBAE office closed

30 Thurs. 7:30 pm

Action Committee, *Phoebe Watts' house, H. Lecar, 549-9719*  
1419 Grant Street, Berkeley

#### DECEMBER

7 Thurs. 7-9 pm

Board Meeting, LWVBAE office *J. Gardner, 548-5292*

11 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm

Environmental Concerns, 1340 Arch St., *C. Stone, 549-0959*  
Berkeley (Horst Bansner's house)

23 Sat. - 31 Sun.

LWVBAE office closed for holiday season

#### JANUARY

1 Mon.

NEW YEAR'S DAY - LWVBAE office closed

4 Thurs. 7-9 pm

Board Meeting, LWVBAE office *J. Gardner, 548-5292*

5 Fri. 5 pm

Deadline for February VOTER *B. Chapman, 527-0827*

8 Mon. 7:30-9:30 pm

Environmental Concerns, 1340 Arch St., *C. Stone, 549-0959*