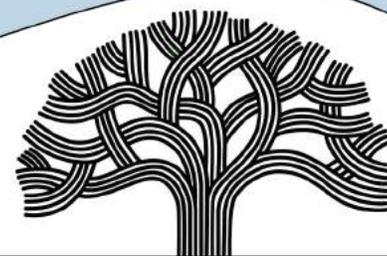


VOTER



League of Women Voters of Oakland 25th Annual All-City Luncheon

Thursday, April 28, 2016 11:15 – 1:30

Oakland Scottish Rite Center Ballroom, 1547 Lakeside Drive



Featured Speaker:

Alex Padilla

California Secretary of State

Building a More Inclusive Democracy

Alex Padilla is committed to modernizing the office, increasing voter registration and participation, and strengthening voting rights.

Making Democracy Work Awards will be presented to

- Dale Marie Golden, for her work as a tireless champion of Oakland non-profits
- Great Oakland Public Schools, for their work building civic engagement in the Oakland public schools community



Buy your ticket now at www.lwvoakland.org Visit us on Facebook at [lwvoak](https://www.facebook.com/lwvoak)

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President's Message

Wow, this is turning into quite an election year, lots going on, which means lots of involvement for the League! The League has a big job to do here at home, statewide and nationally. Your active support and involvement are crucial; for as we say in our mission statement, the League of Women Voters is many hands helping to make democracy work!

LWVO is starting off the Election Season this Spring with our **25th Annual All City Luncheon on Thursday, April 28th at the Scottish Rite Center** across from Lake Merritt. We are honored to have as our speaker **California Secretary of State Alex Padilla**. Secretary Padilla has been real champion of expanding access to voting for all Californians. Among his accomplishments is sponsorship of California's Motor Voter Act (AB1461), which was signed into law by Governor Brown last year. Last August he withdrew former Secretary of State Bowen's Appeal in Scott v. Bowen, restoring voting rights for nearly 60,000 ex-felons.

You can purchase your Luncheon ticket on line at www.lwvoakland.org. This not-to-be-missed event starts with a time to network with old friends and new, have your picture taken, then enjoy lunch in the elegant Scottish Rite Center ballroom. You can applaud our Making Democracy Work Awardees, **Dale Marie Golden**. (VP and Community Reinvestment Act Liaison for Torrey Pines Bank), along with **Great Oakland Public Schools**. And of course, you will enjoy listening to Secretary Padilla talk about "Building a More Inclusive Democracy". We promise to end by 1:30 so you can go on with your day informed and energized.

I said we need your active participation; to become involved please contact one of the following LWVO Board members: Voter Service Chair, Deborah Shefler, who is gearing up for the election season and needs volunteers for Pros and Cons as well as for Candidate forums. We will need everything from time-keepers, to question gatherers and moderators. Which of these jobs do you think you might work into your busy schedule? It is educational, hands-on, and very satisfying. Deborah can be reached at

voterservice@lwvoakland.org.

Want to go into the high schools to talk to about-to-be voters and help them to register? Contact our Voter Registration Coordinator, Sandy Venning, at registration@lwvoakland.org. Or, would you like to go to one of Oakland's Public Libraries and help people register and answer basic questions about voting? If so, send me an email at president@lwvoakland.org and I will help you connect with an Oakland library making time and space to provide this League service.



(Continued on page 3)

LWVO's Annual All-City Luncheon and YOU

Play a special part in our gala fundraiser this year! See all the details on Page 1 of this *Voter*, then sign up to participate in this special event. There are lots of ways you can play an important part in this celebration:

1) Plan to attend!

- Underwrite a table.
- Buy a ticket for yourself and a friend, or, if you cannot come,
- Make a contribution.

Do these things on our Web site at www.lwvoakland.org

2) Volunteer to help out on the day of the Luncheon;

if you're buying a ticket, we would welcome your assistance with

- Placing flowers and handouts on the tables before the guests arrive
- Registering guests
- Helping people find their tables

Interested in helping on the day of the Luncheon? Send an email to info@lwvoakland.org or call and leave a message at (510) 834-7640.

Be a part of the action!

—Bonnie Hamlin

League About Town

Every Friday night the Oakland Museum opens its doors to the city. Oaklanders come to check out the exhibits, sample treats from the famous food trucks, listen to music and dance on the terraces. On March 25th LWVO was part of this scene, registering voters and providing information. League volunteers during the evening were Clair Castell, Katherine Gavzy, Jane Klein, Gloria Meads, Madeleine Nelson, Treva Reid, Louise Rothman-Riemer, Sandy Venning and Phyllis White-Ayanruoh. The Museum has invited us to come back any time, especially as the November elections approach, so look for a call for volunteers in a future *Voter*, and join the fun next time.



Louise Anderson, Louise Rothman-Riemer, Katherine Gavzy, Claire Castell, and Treva Reid.

In February LWVO was proud to participate in "A Fair Chance to Advance" community resource fair held at The West Oakland Youth Center, where we registered voters and provided information to help formerly incarcerated persons



Louise Anderson and Shun Younger of Envision Academy and Paul Robson Chapter of the ACLU

know and exercise their voting rights, a top issue for the League. The resource fair was part of a Community Town Hall on Justice Reinvestment sponsored by the Justice Reinvestment Coalition of Alameda County.

President's Message (Continued from page 2)

Folks, this election year many of the questions that are being raised in the debates are basic to our democracy, including freedom of the press, immigrant rights, and voting rights. As League members we can be a resource to our community, helping to support greater understanding of the purpose and importance of voting. When you don't state your preference for an issue or a candidate you are allowing others to determine how our city, state or country will be governed. If you don't vote your voice will not be heard nor be counted. This is our democratic system; it only works because we vote!

— Louise R-R

Public School Enrollment System in Oakland: An Important Proposal for Our Students and Their Parents

On March 17, 2016, LWVO provided an important informational program at City Hall on the topic of the proposed change to a Common Enrollment System (CES) for all Oakland public schools, district-run and charter-run public schools. Our panel included two members of the OUSD school board: Director Jody London from District 1 and Director Shanthi Gonzales from District 6. The program was moderated by Helen Hutchison

Arguments for and against the proposed CES were offered by the presenters and by the audience during Q&A. Please refer to the following links for in-depth information about a Common Enrollment System for OUSD:

1. The OUSD's presentation to the School Board about the CES on 12/2/2015. To read this document, go to www.ousd.org, hover the cursor over "Recent News" and click on "Presentations" in the pull down menu. The first Presentation listed is now "Prospective Improvements - District's Student Enrollment System."
2. <http://oneoaklandunited.org/2015/12/02/in-common-enrollment-who-is-the-other-guys-kid/>
3. <http://postnewsgroup.com/blog/2016/01/21/opinion-common-enrollment-misfit-problems-plague-oakland-schools/>



Selection of their schools should offer each student the best pathway toward success in graduation, college, and career; and joy in the public educational process and in their lives going forward. We must find the common ground that supports these things for future Oakland voters.

-Jane Klein

Panel Untangles Impact Fees and Other Oakland Housing Issues for LWVO at our February Program Event

A lively discussion occurred and an interesting suggestion was raised at our program about housing on February 11. Guest panelists were Claudia Cappio, Oakland's Assistant City Administrator overseeing major developments, economic development and community services; and Jeffrey Levin, Policy Director for East Bay Housing Organization, an affordable housing advocacy group.

During her presentation, Ms. Cappio explained that Impact Fees paid by developers to cities have been legal in California and have been in place in several Bay Area communities for several years. But not in Oakland. There is a proposal before the City Council now that could bring Oakland an estimated \$60,000,000 over the next 10 years to use to develop badly needed affordable housing units. Many factors need to be considered to balance City needs and developer risks to keep the development feasible.

Mr. Levin gave a history of Oakland's current affordable housing dearth involving the cut in state funding when Redevelopment laws ended, the 10,000 home foreclosures that occurred here when the housing bubble broke and most of those houses became rentals, poor coordination of transportation providers in the Bay Area, Proposition 1C money ran out, and Federal home grants dropped 50%. One outcome has been a 25% decrease in Oakland's black American demographic.

(Continued on page 5)

Leaving A Legacy

Gaining the constitutional right to vote has been one of the greatest achievements of American women. It was a grueling and long fight. It took several decades before women were triumphant with the passing of the 19th Amendment. The League of Women Voters, formed from that movement, remains to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans.

If you want to guarantee that the legacy of the League of Women Voters is secure, you can do that through income gifts from your estate plan. Your charitable estate planning will set an example for your children and make certain that the League of Women Voters you support today will still be supported tomorrow.

Although the legacies you typically read about in print and social media are grand in scope, most people who leave assets to charitable organizations through their wills and trusts are of modest means. The simple fact is that estate planning can help you accomplish both financial AND charitable goals.

How do you remember LVW Oakland with a life income gift? Three ways usually come to mind.

- **Charitable remainder trusts** are cash or other assets donated to the charitable trust with the donor or other beneficiaries receiving an income interest for life or a term of years. This trust is tax-exempt by virtue of the fact there must be a charitable beneficiary of the remainder interest. Because of its versatility, the charitable remainder trust is one of the most popular life income vehicles.
- **Donor-advised funds** are usually created through community foundations and, increasingly, public charities. Their purpose is to allow you a voice on how your donation will be managed and distributed, while avoiding the expense and regulation of a family foundation.
- **Charitable gift annuities**, part gift and part annuity, are simple contracts between one or two donors and the charitable organization. The contract requires the organization to pay a predetermined stream of income to the donor for life in exchange for a gift.

When you are preparing your estate planning strategies with your attorney, please consider including the League of Women Voters of Oakland. This is your League and leaving your legacy to the League will safeguard future generations by continuing to make democracy work!

Housing Impact Fees (Continued from page 4)

We urge readers to visit www.eastbayexpress.com/oakland-proposes-affordable-housing-impact-fee for more information.

About that interesting suggestion: An LWVO member in the audience suggested that when people who have low Prop 13 property taxes finally sell their property, and taxes for the new owner are raised to current property value levels, some percentage of the increased tax revenue could be sent into the City's trust fund for affordable housing. No impact on the seller or buyer; just, for example, a 20% smaller increase in the City's tax revenue from that property sale. Ms. Cappio will look into the idea.

-Jane Klein

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Oakland Tech Students Register Voters

It was a misty moisty Saturday morning , but that didn't stop Odehe Akuaku and Muna Lambo, Oakland Tech High School students, from joining League member Jane Klein in registering voters out in front of Diesel a Book Store on College Ave. They registered or reregistered nearly 20 people in just over 3 hours and reached out to many more about voting. The time Odehe and Muna spent with the League helped them fulfill community service requirements for school. League volunteers spent several weekend mornings and afternoons with ten Oakland Tech students registering or reregistering voters, on sunny days on College Avenue and Lakeshore Ave, in the rain at Fruitvale BART, at Cesar Chavez Library, and at a table shared with the Berkeley LWV at the American Pacific Islanders Women's Day Celebration in Berkeley. Different venues, different demographics, but one goal: to increase the number of citizens who vote.



Brian Mineart and Holly Slater help register voters

This is grass roots engagement. It was a great opportunity to reach out, person to person, to remind people about voting and how much their vote counts. It also allowed our League to increase our presence in the community and to inform and engage more people in voting this presidential election year. The students had the opportunity to see how they could make a difference beyond simply registering and voting themselves. They had a chance to see and think about why people do and do not choose to register and vote, and how those choices impact our democracy.



Naomi Nakamura and Perla Paredes

Thanks to all those students who participated: Odehe Akuaku, Brittney Jenkins, Muna Lambo, Zoram Mercado, Brian Mineart, Naomi Nakamura, Perla Perades, Katya Sadek, Holly Slater, and Alexis Valdes, and to their Government/Economics teacher, Harry Pasternak, for encouraging them to volunteer with the League of Women Voters. Thanks too to Leaguer Jane Klein for her consistent and cheerful help with this project.

—Louise R-R and Sandy Venning

LWVO Goes to High Schools

Once again this year volunteers from the League have visited senior government/economics classes at local high schools to inspire students to exercise their right to register and vote. Visiting in groups of three so as to be available for individual questions, we present the sorry facts of low registration numbers, especially among young people, and create a conversation with the students about why that needs to change. We then distribute voter registration forms, help the students to complete them, and deliver them to the Registrar of Voters. It's fun to talk with the students and it produces good results. By the end of spring we will have visited 22 classrooms of six teachers in three high schools (Oakland High, Oakland Tech and Skyline)—our best year ever—and we hope the program will continue to grow. If you would like to become part of it or if you have other ideas about how to get out the vote, contact registration@lwvoakland.org.

The League is actively working to reach a record number of Oakland voters to remind them of the importance of voting and help them be informed about real issues that impact their daily lives. You can join with other League members in helping potential Oakland voters vote. Reach out to your friends and neighbors and share your knowledge.

—Sandy Venning and Louise R-R

Summary of Interview with Assembly Member Rob Bonta

Each year local Leagues collaborate in interviewing our state legislators. Below is a summary of our interview with State Assembly Member Rob Bonta, who represents the 18th district, encompassing Alameda, San Leandro, and parts of Oakland. Members of LWV Oakland, Alameda, and Eden Area participated.

What legislative proposals would you support to improve voter turnout?

Assembly member Bonta favors:

- Automatic voter registration for all students
- Vote by mail (only)
- Holiday on the official election day
- Vote up to two weeks in advance of election day at numerous official locations
- A resolution to allow voters at age 16 to vote for school board members
- Promotion of the motor voter law

What is being done to ensure affordable housing?

- One time money from Prop 63 to provide additional money this year
- More robust affordable housing tax credits
- A possible city bond proposal to fund affordable housing, using “boomerang funds”, former redevelopment agency property tax increment revenues that now flow back to the city.

- A possible county-wide bond measure to support affordable housing, particularly for people such as teachers, who work in a community but cannot afford to live there.

Priorities and policies on climate change?

- California can and should continue its leadership on climate change (AB 32, SB 35, and SB350).
- Bonta co-authored a deal with Senator de Leon in which Calpers divests from coal.
- Bonta does not support the shipment of coal through a terminal being built on the old Army Base land next to the Port of Oakland, though he thinks the developer of the terminal has the legal right to do so.

Bonta’s top priorities:

Human trafficking, early childhood education, gun violence.

—Adapted from the LWV Eden Area *Voter*

Welcome New Members

Linda Arrick, Ann Daniels, Kathleen Handron,
Karina Ryan, Bob Unger

Welcome Back

Lora Thielbar

Membership: Join Us or Renew!

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No date? You’re not a member; please JOIN!

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_____ \$35 Additional Member at the same address. New _____ or Renewal _____

_____ \$25 Student Membership. New ___ or Renewal ___

OR _____ \$ 10 - \$70 Sliding scale New ___ or Renewal ___

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Calendar

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Mon., April 11 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Conference room 710 at 436 14th St.
Thurs., April 28	All-City Annual Luncheon	Scottish Rite Center
Mon., May 9 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Conference room 710 at 436 14th St.
Thurs, June 9	Annual Meeting	TBD

Is there a date at the top of it?
 If there's no date at the top of it, you are not a member. Please join; use the membership form on page 7 or go to our website: www.lwvoakland.org
 If there is a date, it shows when your membership expires. If it's earlier than 6/30/16, please contact membership@lwvoakland.org