



## Providing Affordable Housing In Oakland

Providing affordable housing for Oakland residents has become a city priority. What proposals are being considered? What are their prospects?

**Thursday, February 11, 6-8 p.m.**

**Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 4**

Speakers have been invited from government and non-profit groups, but are unconfirmed as we go to press. Check our website [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org) for further information.

## LWVO Annual Policy Planning Meeting

On January 23<sup>rd</sup> the League held its annual policy planning meeting at the Rockridge Library in Oakland. It was agreed that the following report should be presented to the Board at their February meeting for approval.

### LWVUS:

- LWVUS had recommended and those in attendance agreed that the LWVUS should continue to focus on the key structures of democracy that have been the focus for the last two years: The Process of Amending the Constitution, Money in Politics/Campaign Finance, and Redistricting, by taking action to Make Democracy Work.
- We agreed to retain LWVUS positions for Representative Government, International Relations, Natural Resources, and Social Policy.
- We agreed to support concurrence with the Behavioral Health position developed by LWV Colorado. To read their position please see: [www.lwvcolorado.org/behavioral-health.html](http://www.lwvcolorado.org/behavioral-health.html)

*(Continued on page 4)*

## Contents



<b>President's Message</b>	<b>p. 2</b>	<b>LWVUS Convention</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>Gun Control in Oakland</b>	<b>p. 3</b>	<b>Ask the Registrar of Voters</b>	<b>p. 6</b>
<b>Money in Politics Consensus</b>	<b>p. 5</b>	<b>Update on Communications</b>	<b>p. 7</b>

## LWVO Board 2015-16

**\*Louise Rothman-Riemer**  
**President**  
president@lwvoakland.org

**Louise Anderson**  
**At Large**  
atlarge2@lwvoakland.org

**Judi Bank**  
**InterLeague Rep**  
interleague@lwvoakland.org

**\*Mary Bergan**  
**Action**  
action@lwvoakland.org

**Annmarie Hallin**  
**Secretary**  
secretary@lwvoakland.org

**Eleni Hub**  
**Webmaster**  
webmaster@lwvoakland.org

**Jane Kline**  
**VP Admin**  
admin@lwvoakland.org

**Amy Lyons**  
**Treasurer**  
treasurer@lwvoakland.org

**\*Judy Merrill**  
**Voter Service Chair Emeritus**  
voterservice@lwvoakland.org

**\*Yolanda Schonbrun**  
**VP Program**  
program@lwvoakland.org

**Deborah Shefler**  
**VP Voter Service**  
voterservice@lwvoakland.org

**Sandy Venning**  
**Voter Registration**  
registration@lwvoakland.org

**Phyllis White-Ayanruoh**  
**Membership**  
membership@lwvoakland.org

**Dawna Williams**  
**At Large**  
atlarge1@lwvoakland.org

\*Executive Committee member

## President's Message

Welcome to February. This is a Leap Year February! LWVO is Leaping Up to Make Democracy Work in Oakland. Are you ready to leap into action?

In this Leap Year LWVO is going to be leaping at the opportunity to lead the way in making Oakland voters informed and active. We are going to leap at the opportunity to see that our city and county officials, government agencies and educational systems reach out to all our communities to make sure they are informed and voting savvy.

We won't stop there; we will also challenge our businesses and citizens to hold themselves responsible for encouraging an informed and voting public.

How will we do this? Leap into the future, my friends, and check out the wonders of our digital world. On our web site we will record how well our civic leaders are doing. We are going to show how responsive our leaders, our schools, and our city government are in helping to get out the vote.

And so I am asking you, yes you, an individual League member or supporter, to join our leap forward to holding our community accountable for greater outreach in this election year!

What can you do? Well here are a few suggestions: Go to our voter savvy posts on our Facebook page and "Like" them. Comment on your own page about who is doing something for voter education and advancement. Volunteer for our Voter Service efforts. Check out the websites of public officials and agencies to see who is really civic engagement minded and then give them a thumbs up or a thumbs down. Ask those running for office what their positions are on voter suppression. Ask your favorite stores to provide voter registration materials. And I invite you to add to this list yourself and tell us about it on Facebook or on our website.

By the way, isn't it interesting that presidential elections are held in leap years? February 2016 is where we count the "leap" in the "year" and I challenge you this February to leap into action and help us hold our community responsible for being informed and voting!

ô Louise R-R



# **LWVO Endorses New Oakland Gun Control Ordinances**

On January 15, the Oakland City Council, on an 8-0 vote, passed three new gun control ordinances. The legislation had been proposed by Councilmembers Dan Kalb, Annie Campbell-Washington, and Rebecca Kaplan, and by City Attorney Barbara Parker. The ordinances strengthen current state and local laws to restrict the use and possession of guns to prevent gun violence.

## **Possession of large-capacity gun magazines is now banned in Oakland.**

Large capacity magazines, ones that contain more than ten rounds of ammunition, enable shooters to do much more damage before they pause to reload. They can also be quickly clipped onto guns to permit a person to resume shooting. When clipped onto semi-automatic weapons, large capacity magazines make the weapons into assault weapons ó which are banned in California. At least one of the guns used in the mass shooting in San Bernardino used this type of set-up

## **Firearms in residences must be stored in locked containers or disabled with trigger locks**

Guns used in crimes, suicides and accidents are often found unsecured at home. Small children actually have enough strength in their thumbs to fire a pistol - pointing either at themselves, a playmate, or a family member. Individuals using guns are more likely to kill or wound a relative than a criminal. Guns are often stolen in home burglaries.

## **Weapons in unattended vehicles in public places must be secured out of sight.**

Murders and other crimes committed with guns stolen from parked vehicles have become all too common. The problem has been exacerbated because burglaries have more than doubled since 2010, with a growing number of firearms stolen during auto burglaries.

A similar proposal covering city-issued firearms was put on hold pending required meetings of city administrators and unions.

The League of Women Voters has a longstanding position supporting regulation of firearms for consumer safety. Acting on this position, the LWVO board voted to support all four proposals.

## **Other proposals are pending at the state level.**

Lt. Governor Gavin Newsom is proposing a 2016 ballot measure aimed at requiring background checks for ammunition purchases and making large-capacity magazines illegal.

Assembly member David Chiu and Attorney General Kamal Harris are proposing legislation that would close the òbullet buttonö loophole by requiring semi-automatic rifles sold in California to have fixed magazines. Bullet button magazines are those that claim they are not removable because they require a "key" or bullet to release them, but are actually quickly removable.

The League of Women Voters supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and to regulate the ownership of guns, including banning assault weapons and limiting high capacity ammunition magazines, as well as funding much-needed research on gun violence in America. The League has also shown support for

*(Continued on page 4)*

**LWV Bay Area:**

We recommend two priorities:

- Support integrated consolidation of MTC and ABAG. LWVBA should continue monitoring this process.
- Follow and work on the Regional Housing Plan.

We asked whether LWVBA is going to take a position on the Clean and Healthy Bay regional parcel tax measure that will be on the June Primary ballot in all 9 Bay Area counties. Additionally we noted concern for the transportation of crude oil from Bay Area ports.

**LWV Alameda County:**

We agreed to retain these positions with a request that additional attention be paid to the following:

- Juvenile Justice: To review and monitor the Restorative Justice Program and to request greater transparency in the meetings of the Juvenile Justice Commission and to review the role of the Chief Probation Officer.
- County Board Of Education: To request that their meetings be available on cable television throughout the county as greater transparency is needed.

**LWV Oakland:**

- We agreed that we should retain all of our local positions.
- We proposed that our Issues for Education and Advocacy to be presented to members at our Annual Meeting in June would be:
  - ô Increase Civic Engagement
  - ô Ensure that LWVO has a robust and functioning Observer Corp.
- We agreed to review the role of a Legislative Analyst for the City of Oakland and to see how this role would be coordinated with that of the City Auditor and the City Attorney on legislative issues.
- Housing is a significant issue in Oakland and

we support affordable housing throughout the City.

An additional focus of the meeting was to provide feedback to LWVUS on the following questions:

- In what way can the League best empower citizens to shape a better nation and communities during the next two years?
- What do our communities and nation need from the League right now?
- Where can the League's strengths have the greatest impact?

As these last three matters are important not only to LWVUS but to us here in Oakland, we invite your suggestions and recommendations. Send them to [president@lwvoakland.org](mailto:president@lwvoakland.org)

The response to these questions will follow in detail in a future Voter article.

ô Louise R-R

**Gun Control (Continued from page 3)**

mandating a waiting period for background checks, closing the gun show loophole and increasing penalties for straw purchases of guns.

We are at a tipping point -- we are not alone. The country is outraged at the availability of death-dealing weaponry on our streets.

-- Gen Katz and Mary Bergan

# LEAGUES REACH CONSENSUS ON MONEY IN POLITICS

As you have been reading in The Voter and on our website for months, local Leagues around the country have been involved in a study to update our policy position on campaign finance regulation. On January 9th and again on January 19th, members discussed the questions provided by the LWVUS study committee, along with the informative readings and resources they provided, and reached consensus on our answers to these questions. We are submitting the results of our consensus to national League where they will be used to help draft the new policy position.

LWVO and our sister Leagues in Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville and Alameda chose to work together on this. We found this to be an excellent plan since each League contributed presentation leaders, participating



MIP Consensus Meeting

members, and the refreshments that kept us fueled for intensive and thought-provoking discussion. This cooperative approach exposed us to different and varied points of view, which greatly enriched the discussions. Many thanks to Nancy Bickel, Deborah Malbec and Christine Weinrich of LWVBAE, Karen Butter of LWVAlameda, Theresa Nelson, Madeleine Nelson, Jane Klein, Sandy Venning and Valena Williams Jr. of LWVO, who worked together to organize and manage the consensus meetings.

The results of the January 9th consensus meeting of Oakland members are posted on the LWVO website (see the Money in Politics page <http://lwvoakland.org/moneyinpol.html>). The results of the January 19th meeting of LWVBAE and Alameda members are posted on the LWVBAE website (<http://www.lwvbae.org>). Take a look at the consensus results and think about how you yourself would have answered these questions. In summary, we were asked to consider the following: 1) What should be the goals of regulating campaign finance? 2) What are examples of corruption caused by political spending?

3) In balancing free speech rights against the goals defined in question #1, for which particular categories of individuals and organizations should political spending be banned, or partially limited, or not limited at all?; 4) How should various forms of press and media activities be controlled, if at all? 5) Which of a few suggested tools for controlling campaign finance, such as banning PACs and Super PACs or using public funding, are acceptable? 6) What is the best way to structure and administer the Federal Election Commission, which oversees and enforces campaign finance regulations?



Valena Williams Jr. and Judy Cox

In our report to LWVUS we emphasized the importance of disclosure at all levels of all sources of campaign financing. We also agreed with the special first amendment protection for the press, and we agreed that the definition of corruption goes beyond just an exchange of favors to include excessive influence of contributors on candidates and officeholders.

As we enter this major election year, when LWVUS and local Leagues will call upon our new updated position to support action against the undue influence of money in politics, we all want to be informed about this important issue.

ô Katherine Gavzy,  
LWVO Money in Politics Committee Chair

## LWVUS Convention Announcement

The League of Women Voters of the United States will hold their national convention in Washington DC from June 16 to 19, 2016. The thrust of the convention will be to continue the League's emphasis on voting and voting rights. This is especially important in a presidential election year when so many more people vote. There has been a very dramatic trend of late to reinstate various forms of voter suppression. The League is a strong force in opposing such repressive legislative actions.

While LWV Oakland will be entitled to six voting delegates, anyone who is interested in attending the convention may attend as a non voting guest. To learn more about the national convention check out the LWV website at [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org). State and local websites will also have convention information, although at this time the national website has more under the League Management Site tab. Registration will open February 4th. If you are interested in attending please email [President@lwvoakland.org](mailto:President@lwvoakland.org)

## Get the Facts from the Registrar of Voters

Do you ever have questions about your voting status? Do you know where your polling place is? Are you unsure whether you remembered to reregister to vote after a recent move? You can find information about these and other questions concerning your voting status if you set up your own "My Voting Profile" on the Alameda County Registrar of Voters website <http://www.acgov.org/rov/>.

To establish your Voting Profile you must provide verifiable information such as your driver's license number and your date of birth. Your voter profile includes: individual voter registration information, polling place, your preferred language for voting information, whether you choose to receive your Voter Information Pamphlet by mail, and a list of your elected officials. If you have set up a profile you will be notified when they receive your vote-by-mail ballot.

The ROV website has a lot of useful information. You can request ballot information in a number of languages. You can volunteer to be a paid poll worker on election day. There's a special program for qualified high school students 16 and over to be poll workers. See the website for more information and spread the word.

## Higher Ed Study Consensus

Access to higher education is the primary focus of the LWVC Higher Education Study. While state support for the UC and CSU systems has plummeted over the past 30 years, more and more of the jobs being created in the state require higher degrees. The questions raised in the study were discussed at an Oakland League meeting in November and the League will have its consensus meeting on February 27th. More information will be available on the LWVO website soon.

Paid Advertisement



BRE# 00875454



**Terry Kulka**

*78 LWV members have entrusted me with the sale of their homes – let's make yours ~~78~~ #9*

**(510) 682-5917**

**[terrykulka@att.net](mailto:terrykulka@att.net)**  
**[www.TerryKulka.com](http://www.TerryKulka.com)**

## Changes Ahead for The Voter

LWVO has established a Communications Committee to evaluate and review how best to communicate with our members and supporters. Like many other traditional publications we are embracing online and digital formats. By making better use of our website, e-blasts, Facebook, Linked In, and Twitter, we believe we will be able to expand our impact and reach, which will be especially important in this election year.

We are not abandoning a printed and mailed Voter, but it is likely that it will no longer come monthly. We would like to have the Voter include more in depth information and therefore we need more time to research and prepare such articles.

We will have frequent blogs on our website and will also make them accessible through Facebook and Twitter. We will be updating our LWVO website soon and the new website format and structure are less compatible with pdf style documents.

If you are interested in working on League Communications, including The Voter, Facebook, Linked In and Twitter, please contact the League at [info@LWVOakland.org](mailto:info@LWVOakland.org), via Facebook, or you can call the office at 510-834-7640.

## Annual All-City Luncheon

### Save the Date

LWVO is very pleased that California's Secretary of State Alex Padilla will be our speaker!

Mark your calendar for Thursday, April 28, 2016, 11:15 AM- 1:30 PM. We will return to last year's beautiful venue, the Scottish Rite Center ballroom on Lakeside Drive.

### Help Make Our 25th Annual Luncheon the Best Yet

Do you know a person, business or organization that might support us? Would you be willing to approach them about taking a table? Or would you share their contact information with us? Send names/contact information or questions to [info@lwvoakland.org](mailto:info@lwvoakland.org), or direct potential table supporters to our website [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)

### Many Hands Needed

Invitations to the luncheon will be mailed on Wednesday, March 16. Watch for an invitation to sign up to help.

## Membership: Join Us or Renew!

Check the date on your Voter's mailing label; it is the date your membership expires.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$70 Individual Membership. New \_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Student Membership. New \_\_\_ or Renewal \_\_\_

OR \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 10 - \$70 Sliding scale NEW \_\_\_ or RENEWAL \_\_\_

(LWVO is a 501(c)4 organization. D ues and donations to LWVO are not tax-deductible)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check to: LWVO, 436 14<sup>th</sup> St., Ste .1213, Oakland CA 94612-2723

OR go to our Website to pay by credit card [www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)



The League of Women Voters of Oakland  
 436 14th St., suite 1213  
 Oakland CA 94612  
 (510) 834-7640  
[www.lwvoakland.org](http://www.lwvoakland.org)  
[info@lwvoakland.org](mailto:info@lwvoakland.org)

NonProfit Org.  
 U.S.Postage  
 PAID  
 Oakland CA  
 Permit No. 2911

**Return Service Requested**

Join the LWV where leaders are actively engaged in effecting change at the local, state, and national level.

**Postmaster: Dated Material**



**Calendar**

Visit [lwvoakland.org](http://lwvoakland.org) for more event listings

Sat., Feb. 6 9:00-2:30	Bay Area League Day Bay Area Transportation	13837 San Pablo Ave. San Pablo
Mon, Feb. 8 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Conference room 710 at 436 14th St.
Thurs., Feb. 11 6:00-8 p.m.	Affordable Housing in Oakland	Oakland City Hall Hearing Room 4
Wed., Feb 24 6:00-8:00 p.m.	Hot Topics: What's next for housing in Oakland?	Conference room 710 at 436 14th St.
Sat., Feb. 27 p.m.	Higher Ed Consensus Meeting	Conference room 710 at 436 14th St.
Mon., March 14 6:30-8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	Conference room 710 at 436 14th St.
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

↑  
**CHECK THE  
 MAILING LABEL  
 ABOVE**

**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](http://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](mailto:membership@lwvoakland.org)**