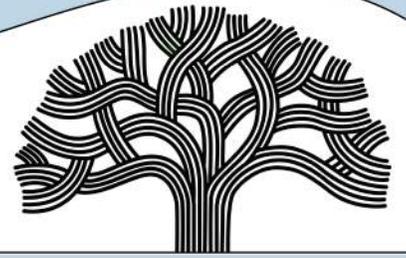


VOTER



MONEY IN POLITICS FORUM

Wednesday October 15, 6 pm to 8 pm, in City Council Chambers at Oakland City Hall.

The League of Women Voters is honored to partner with Oakland’s Public Ethics Commission in presenting a public forum on Money in Politics featuring Ann Ravel, Chair of the Federal Election Commission and former head of California’s Fair Political Practices Commission. Ms Ravel will share her experiences and challenges overseeing political spending in our post Citizens United world. Our second speaker, Paul Ryan, Senior Counsel at The Campaign Legal Center, will explain the current state of campaign finance law. We will also hear from Denise Barber, Managing Director of Follow the Money, on campaign finance disclosure. There will be plenty of time for questions and discussion as we all consider these questions: Is democracy in danger of corruption by uncontrolled political spending? Does public apathy and cynicism about the undue influence of big money cause low voter turnout? How can we balance free speech rights with equal access rights? Is a Constitutional amendment the answer?



Ann Ravel



Paul Ryan

Here are some resources we urge you to check out:

<http://lwv.org/issues/reforming-money-politics>

<https://lwvc.org/issues/money-and-politics>

And the conversation continues! Come to the Hot Topics informal roundtable discussion on Money in Politics, Wednesday October 28 6 pm to 8 pm in Room 710 at 436 14th Street, corner of 14th and Broadway.

Come learn and share your views with local experts on campaign finance and disclosure. Jonathan Stein, Board Chair of California Common Cause and voting rights attorney with the ACLU, will join us.



Denise Barber

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President's Message



“What do you mean I’m a victim? You’re arresting me and taking me to jail, that’s like I’m a criminal. Victim? Yeah, sure!” A young teenage girl out on the streets turning tricks for a “Romeo” pimp can be hard pressed to believe she’s a victim and that Romeo doesn’t have her best interest in mind. What do we think when we hear that Oakland is one of the country’s major hubs for Human Traf-

ficking? How do we approach someone whom most see as victimized by her pimp, but who sees herself as victimized by the police? What does it say about how we as a society respond to our communities’ problems? The League looked at the issue of Human Trafficking in its September 10th Program. The League’s position is to end human trafficking. That’s our policy and it gives us power to act, which means we can do something.

Citizens United, the U.S. Supreme Court decision which treated corporations as people impacted the League’s position on campaign financing. What new questions does it raise for the kind of society we could live in? Is money speech? If one has enough money is it fair, is it just, and is it right, if one can seemingly buy an election?

Well let’s just call for a Constitutional Amendment that says individuals can’t give so much they can buy an election! But then what about freedom of speech? And, if money is speech, can we infringe on that? What about personal privacy? Should large financial contributors really have to disclose who they are? Is supporting a new Constitutional Amendment a really viable option? Do we want a political process that just goes to the guy who’s got the most money? What kind of a society will that bring about? What does the League have to say about that? What position will the League take? What will that position allow the League to do?

What about Higher Education in California? Most freshmen in college are 18 or 19 olds. But what about the 30 or 40 year old, who after working for many years decides to go to college? Should there only be one set of criteria for college entrance? Is a high school diploma an absolute must? How can individuals with little financial resources go to college and finish when tuitions are so high?

Money in Politics and viability of Constitutional Amendments are studies currently being carried on by League members across the county. Higher Education is a California State League study. The League has such studies so we can ACT. We study critical issues and raise critical questions in order for League members to engage with their community from an informed position to make democracy work and to bring about change.

Human Trafficking is a position the U. S. League has taken a strong position against. Therefore, when local Leagues oppose trafficking, our voice is heard with the strength of a national policy. Money in Politics, the advisability of a Constitutional Amendment, as well as questions about Higher Education are issues the League studies in order to reach consensus, enabling League members to act in our communities.

Join a League study group. On October 15th come to Oakland City Council Chambers and learn more about the impact of money in politics. In November, LWVO’s Program tackles the issue of Constitutional Amendments. In December we are likely to have a program on higher educational issues. Come to our League Programs. Become informed. That way you can more successfully engage your family, friends and colleagues in discussion. Then, when we need to vote on one of these issues as a city, a state, or a nation, we can vote informed. Our votes translate to actions which translates to changes to our communities, and that is the hand in hand work the League does that make democracy better.

Isn’t this why you are a part of the League?

-Louise Rothman-Riemer, President LWVO

LWVUS Study on Amending the Constitution

Amending the Constitution - why does the League need to study it? Isn't the Constitution clear about the process?

In addition to lots of proposals for specific amendments, a number of state legislatures are adopting resolutions asking Congress to call a constitutional convention. That's a process that, while specified in the Constitution, has never been used!

How would a constitutional convention work? Who would go? How would they be chosen? Would there be any limits on what they can propose? How should the League evaluate a proposed constitutional amendment? Are there criteria beyond our current positions we think should apply to constitutional amendments?

If these questions intrigue you - or you simply have some opinions you'd like to express - then you should be part of the discussion on this study.

We are holding two meetings:

Wednesday, November 4, 6:00-8:00 pm, in Hearing Room 3 at Oakland City Hall, One Frank Ogawa Plaza: A presentation on the process to amend the Constitution, including ideas about potential changes to the process, by Jonathan Stein, State Chair of Common Cause <http://www.commoncause.org/states/california/about/board/> and civil rights attorney with the ACLU, followed by Q&A and discussion.

Saturday, November 7, 9:00 am - 1:00 pm in Conference room 710 at 436 14th Street, downtown Oakland. Consensus meeting. We'll discuss the LWVUS consensus questions <http://forum.lwv.org/member-resources/article/constitutional-amendment-consensus-questions>



You don't need to come to the November 4th meeting to participate in the consensus meeting on November 7 - but if you do, you'll have a great introduction to be able to participate in the discussion.

For more information:

Background on the study, including the study guide [link to: <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>]

About the meetings: moneyinpolitics@lwvoakland.org

-Katherine Gavzy

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Terry Kulka

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

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League About Town

At the Kick Off Luncheon for the American Association of University Women (AAUW) on Saturday, September 12th, League President, Louise Rothman-Riemer moderated a discussion with Oakland Mayor, Libby Schaaf. Mayor Schaaf touched on many issue relating to women and services affecting women provided by the City of Oakland. In particular Mayor Schaaf spoke about her proposed educational initiative “Cradle to Career” which she said she plans to roll out in the coming months. Schaaf staffer David Silver has asked the League to also take a look at this initiative and to provide the Mayors office with feedback.

During her remarks Mayor Schaaf said it was involvement with the League of Women Voters that started her on career as a public servant and most recently her election as Mayor in November of 2014.

League at the Art & Soul Festival

Ninety-five years after the League of Women Voters was founded, challenges to Americans’ voting rights look different and remain at risk, but the League remains committed to Making Democracy Work. On Saturday, August 1st and Sunday, August 2nd, LWVO joined the thousands of revelers celebrating Oakland/East Bay culture to promote voter education and voting rights. Over this jubilant Oakland Art & Soul Festival weekend, LWVO registered people to vote and shared membership information, flyers announcing our upcoming events and our signature “Who Represents Oakland” pamphlet as well as general League education materials. Heartfelt thanks to Louise Anderson, Mary Bergan, Marisel Brown, Katherine Gavzy, June Grant, Annmarie Hallin, Bonnie Hamlin, Helen Haug, Eleni Hub, Diane Lewis, Amy Lyons, Natasha Middleton, Louise Rothman-Riemer, Leslie Smith, Phyllis White-Ayanruoh, Dawna Williams, and Valena Williams, Jr. for making this a very fun and successful activity.

Look for us Sunday, November 8th at the “Dia de los Muertos” festival in Oakland’s Fruitvale Village. Interested volunteers are invited to contact the office: info@lwvoakland.org for sign-up information.

-Phyllis White-Ayanruoh



Diane Lewis and Annmarie Hallin



**Helen Haug, Diane Lewis,
Louise Rothman-Riemer & Phyllis White-Ayanruoh**

Please Welcome the Following New Members

Ariel Ky
Chancellor Jowel Laguerre, PhD
Randi Voorhies

Welcome Back to the following returning member, Lenore Gallin

Welcome to New Webmaster Eleni Hub

LWVO welcomes its newest Board Member, Eleni Hub, who has taken over the important job of webmaster. Although a member of the Oakland League for just two years, Eleni learned about the League as a child growing up in Massachusetts, where her mother was a very active in League activities. Eleni has an academic background perfect for the webmaster post, with a college education that had English and Computer Science as its main foci. She has held a variety of jobs, but while raising her family with her husband she has devoted a lot of her time to volunteering in their schools and serving on the PTA. Her oldest is going off to college, the next is starting high school, and the youngest has entered middle school. She now has a part time job as an Academic Mentor at Glenview Elementary, which all three of her children attended.



Eleni Hub

Eleni is following in the steps of our first webmaster, Bev Solo, who died last spring. Bev and Eleni discussed the League's web site, and Bev felt she was leaving it in good hands.

As she gets comfortable in her new role, Eleni hopes to make gradual improvements, Working with Communications Committee Chair Leslie Smith and with input from Voter Editor Teresa Johns, she hopes to expand its coverage and reorganize it so that people can quickly find what they are looking for.

This winter LWVO will serve as a beta test site for a new "Easy Web" application developed by the California League, so the site's look may change quickly in the coming year. With her practical approach and positive attitude, Eleni is a real asset to our League.

California State League Celebrates Voting Rights Victory

In August, the League of Women Voters of California, the American Civil Liberties Union of California, All of Us or None, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, and Legal Services for Prisoners with Children stood on the steps of the downtown Alameda County Courthouse together with Secretary of State Padilla to announce the withdrawal of a challenge to the voting rights of the formerly incarcerated. What better way to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act than to send a message to the rest of the nation that California is expanding our democracy and will not stand for discrimination in voting?

LWVC had joined a lawsuit in 2011 charging then-Secretary of State Debora Bowen with violating state law when she issued a directive stating that otherwise-eligible Californians are ineligible to vote if they are on post-release community supervision or mandatory supervision, two new and innovative local supervision programs for people sentenced for low-level, non-violent felonies. The California Constitution and state election laws state that only people imprisoned or on parole for conviction of a felony are ineligible to vote; it has long been clear that people on other forms of supervision – such as felony probation or drug-diversion – have the right to vote. An Alameda County Superior Court judge ruled that Bowen's directive illegally stripped nearly 60,000 of people of their voting rights. Bowen appealed and continued the fight to disenfranchise the formerly incarcerated, a disproportionate number of whom are people of color. Secretary of State Padilla withdrew his predecessor's appeal "Formerly incarcerated people should not be disenfranchised and have to fight for their voting rights. Restoration of these voting rights is long overdue and the League is pleased that California is leading the way to protect voting rights for all," said Helen Hutchison, President of the League of Women Voters of California.

Please Share Your Thoughts About the Voter

At our Annual Meeting in June we asked what our members felt about making some significant changes to our monthly Voter publication. While many long time members discouraged such a change, there were many other members who thought it a good idea. As the number of members who attended the Annual Meeting did not constitute a majority of our membership we thought we would raise the question again. We would like your feedback on some changes to the Voter.

There are two matters in particular we would like to hear from you about.

I) Should LWVO produce our Voter newsletter every other month instead of every month? If we were to do that we would also like to

- a) Have longer more in depth articles about issues of interest to the Oakland League
- b) The production cycle for the Voter would be longer which is likely to be helpful to our editor as she would have more time to put it all together.

II) Should the Voter be only an on line publication? Many Leagues are now doing this as on line publication is more affordable and has the potential to be more colorful as it is easier and less expensive to have colored photos and graphs etc. in an on line publication.

Please let us know your thoughts both pro and con. Responses can be sent to Voter Editor LWV Oakland 436 14th Street Suite 1213 Oakland, CA 94612- 2723. Or on line at VoterEditor@LWVOakland.org.

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Public Ethics Commission Announcement

The City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission (PEC) will have one PEC-appointed vacancy on its sevenmember board beginning in January 2016. The PEC is now accepting applications to fill this Commissionselected seat. Applications are due by Friday, October 30, 2015.

The Public Ethics Commission is a seven-member board of volunteers dedicated to the City Charter goal of ensuring fairness, openness, honesty, and integrity in City government. Guided by duties and authority set out by City ordinance, the Commission works to achieve its goals through a three-pronged approach that focuses on prevention, enforcement, and collaboration.



Each member of the Commission must be an Oakland resident who is registered to vote in Oakland. Three Commissioners are appointed respectively by the Mayor, City Attorney, and City Auditor. The remaining four are appointed by the full Commission on a rotating schedule. Once appointed, a Commissioner is expected to participate in monthly meetings and occasional subcommittee meetings to deliberate and provide guidance to staff in the conduct of the Commission's business.

For More PEC Information

For more about the Public Ethics Commission, visit us online at www.oaklandnet.com/pec and watch a monthly Commission meeting (first Monday of each month) and a City Council meeting in person or on local television (Channel 10). A commissioner applicant must attend at least one PEC meeting prior to appointment. The Commission's next two meetings are October 5 and November 2, 2015, both starting at 6:30 p.m. in Hearing Room 1 of City Hall.

For more information about the Commission or this announcement, contact Whitney Barazoto at wbarazoto@oaklandnet.com or (510) 238-6620.

National Voter Registration Day

National Voter Registration Day - September 22, 2015

We participated! - We collaborated!

LWVO registered 12 new voters at 3 Oakland sites: 2 BART stations and Arizmendi co-op bakery & coffeeshop. LWVPiedmont joined us at the Rockridge station. We passed out numerous affidavits for folks in a hurry to complete and mail in themselves. And dozens of flyers giving info for online Voter Registration.

Take note: Every Leaguer who took part in this activity said they really had a good time. LWVO's nonagenarian, Barbara Newcombe, registered 2 of our 12. Barbara has been pushing voter registration for 30+ years!

9-22-2015 went well. We will begin organizing earlier next year so all the Bay Area Leagues can collaborate for a really successful NVRD!



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CALENDAR

(Visit lwvoakland.org for more event listings)

Thu, Oct 8, 5:15 - 7:30pm	Money in Politics: Campaign Finance Limits vs Free Speech Rights	Northbrae Church 941 The Alameda Berkeley, CA 94707
Mon, Oct 12, 6:30 - 8:30pm	LWVO Board Meeting	Conference room 710 at 436 14th Street
Thurs October 15, 6:00pm	Money in Politics Forum cosponsored with Public Ethics Commission	City Council Chambers at Oakland City Hall
Wed, Oct 28th 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Money in Politics Hot Topics informal roundtable discussion	Conference room 710 at 436 14th Street
Wed, Nov 4, 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Public Info Forum on Amending the Constitution.	Oakland City Hall 1 Frank Ogawa Plaza. Hearing Rm 3
Sat, Nov 7, 9:00am - 100pm	Consensus meeting on Constitution amendments	Conference Room 710 at 436 14th Street



Check the address label on this newsletter. The date that runs across the top, above your name, is the date when your membership expires. If this date is lower than 6/30/2016, you should have received a renewal reminder in the mail a month ago. Please renew at www.lwvoakland.org and click on renew online.

If there's no date on your mailing label, you are not a member of LWV Oakland. Please join at www.lwvoakland.org and click on Join Online.

Questions?? Leave a message at (510) 834-7640 or info@lwvoakland.org and someone will get back to you promptly.