

Fall Kick-off Program Human Sex Trafficking: Right Here in Oakland?

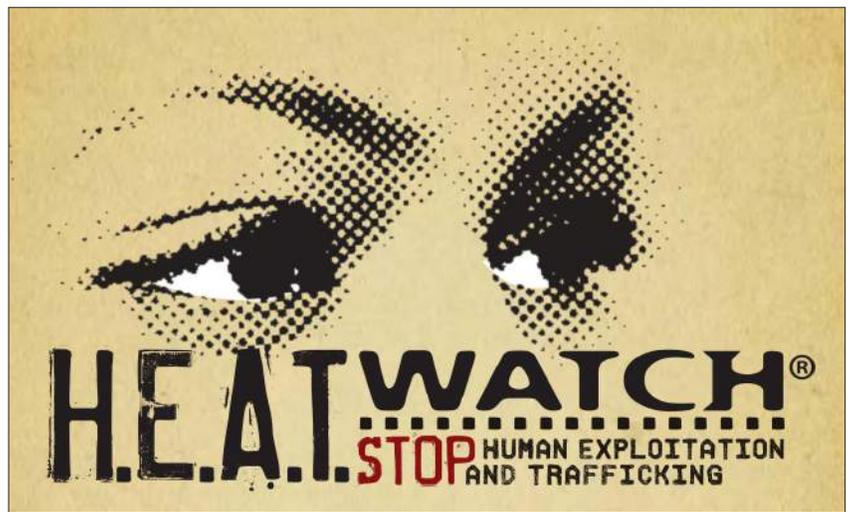
Thursday, September 10, 6-8 PM
Oakland City Hall, Hearing Room 3

Come and hear information on measures and other efforts in legislative public policy to prevent human sex trafficking.

What are the statistics on prosecution and penalization of traffickers and abusers?
What type of essential services for victims is Oakland providing?

Confirmed Guest speakers:

- Genice Jacobs,
Anti-Trafficking Consultant
AbolitionistMom.org
- Jennifer Madden,
Deputy District Attorney,
Alameda County



To be better informed on the issue, please take a look at the following links:
http://toolkit.heatwatch.org/community/community_tools
http://toolkit.heatwatch.org/community/files/race_ethnicity.pdf
<https://vimeo.com/116113193>

- Sgt. Holly Yoshi, Chief of Staff,
Oakland Police Department
- Adela Rodarte
Transition Age Youth Services Coordinator

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President's Message

As your new League President I congratulate and thank Katherine Gavzy for six amazing years as President of the League of Woman Voters Oakland. During Katherine's presidency we grew into the largest League in California, helped increase the reach and effectiveness of Oakland's Ethics Commission, supported local and state measures that make our democracy work better and more transparently. Our "Easy Voter Guide" continues to be a must at election time and our League's communications through our website and our use of social media has reached new heights. So again, thank you Katherine, for your care, your vision, your time and your belief that together LWVO can make Oakland a great place where democracy works for all.

The 2016 election cycle will be here in only a few short months. Low voter turn out in recent elections meant that less than a majority of us made important decisions for all of us. We can change that by making Oakland a "City That Votes" but we need all of us to make that happen. To accomplish this I am asking each of you as well as Oakland's business and civic leaders to join with the League in raising Oakland's voting conscience by encouraging conversations on civic engagement so that we can have an increasingly informed and knowledgeable electorate.

In September we start our fall Program and Hot Topic sessions with a look at human trafficking, which unfortunately has a large and ugly presence in Oakland. "Money in Politics" will be our October Program and Hot Topics issue. We are excited to co-sponsor the program portion with the the City's Ethics Commission. That meeting will be held in Council Chambers at City Hall.

"Money in Politics" is a current LWVUS study and upon completion will instruct the League's position on this topic. A companion study to "Money in Politics" is a study on amending the Constitution. This study will have its informational and consensus meetings in November. Helen Hutchison is chairing this study. We are also engaged in a State study on Higher Education; you can read more about these studies, in this issue of "The Voter".

We have established a special communications team to evaluate how to make "The Voter," our website, and our use of social media more relevant and a greater

resource for every corner of our City. Don't be shy in offering suggestions and/or wishes to make our communications more effective and timely.

At our Annual Meeting the League voted to restate our Articles of Incorporation and correct our non profit status from a "mutual benefit" corporation to a "public benefit" corporation. Our restated Articles have been accepted by the Secretary of Sate. We can now consider whether or not we wish to become a 501(c) (3) organization so that donations to our League would be tax deductible.

As your new President I am excited about what we can do together to educate, engage and grow our democracy. I am also passionate in my dedication to make Oakland a "City That Votes" but I need all of you to help me make it so.

Best Wishes,

Louise Rothman-Riemer



LWVO had a booth at Art and Soul!

Mary Bergan, Dawna Williams, Louise Rothman-Riemer, Valena Williams Jr

The League Tackles Money in Politics

With a major election ahead, local Leagues around the country are participating in two National League studies: an update of the existing policy statement on campaign finance to support effective action against the corrupting influence of money on politics in the post Citizens United era, and a new study of the process for amending the constitution, much discussed as one possible response to the effects of that 2012 Supreme Court decision.

Oakland and our neighboring Leagues have jumped right into this effort. This fall we will present a series of public information forums and discussion programs, followed by meetings where members will work for consensus on a set of questions aimed at creating the new policy positions for adoption at the national level. Our committee urges everyone to get ready for these meetings by reading the fascinating and thought-provoking materials on the LWVUS study web page. Find links to these readings and other information on our own website www.lwvoakland.org under "Money in Politics" or go directly to <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/money-politics-review>.

We suggest you start by taking the "pop quiz" to see how much you really know about PAC'S, SUPER PAC'S, and dark money. You may be surprised. Here is an overview of upcoming events. More details will be available shortly on social media and the sponsoring organizations' websites:

Thursday, October 8 at 6:30 pm, at the Northbrae Community Church, 941 The Alameda, Berkeley, the Berkeley/Albany/Emeryville League offers a panel focusing on disclosure, featuring Jay Costa, Executive Director of CounterPac, and Miriam Marks, Data Director of Maplight. Call LWVBAE at (510)843-8824 for more information, if you wish to attend the dinner and film showing that precede it.

Thursday October 15, 6 pm in City Council Chambers, Oakland City Hall, LWVO in partnership with the city of Oakland Public Ethics Commission presents a forum featuring Ann Ravel, Chair of the Federal

Election Commission and former head of California's Fair Political Practices Commission, sharing her experiences and challenges she faces, along with her own assessments of possible solutions to this problem.

Wednesday October 28 at 6 pm in Conference Room 710 at 436 14th Street, corner of Broadway and 14th near Oakland City Center, come learn and share your views with local experts at a Hot Topics informal roundtable discussion on Money in Politics.

Wednesday, November 4 at 6 pm, location to be announced, we will have a public information program on the process for amending the Constitution and how to evaluate potential amendments, featuring Jonathan Stein of Common Cause and the ACLU.

On Saturday November 7, (Save the Date), location to be announced, we will deal with the national League study consensus questions on Constitutional amendments. Background information and the questions are available on the LWVUS site <http://forum.lwv.org/category/member-resources/our-work/constitutional-amendment-study>

Here is your chance to get informed and have an impact on an issue that the League and others believe could be a real threat to our democracy. Send your questions and comments to moneyinpolitics@lwvoakland.org.

-Katherine Gavzy

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~~7~~8 LWV members have entrusted me with the sale of their homes – let's make yours ~~7~~8 #9

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Oakland a Hub for Human Sex Trafficking

Oakland is known as one of the major U.S. hubs for human sex trafficking; specifically, International Boulevard (the Track) is the central location where underage girls are bought and sold for sex. Human sex trafficking has become the intricate economic machine that drives both demand and supply.

Law enforcement, city officials, non-profits, attorneys, and advocates are all working every day to help in the fight against this activity. Still, many residents of Oakland are unaware that this activity occurs around the clock in our city.

Join the LWVO on September 10 at 6 p.m. to engage in a dialogue around this policy issue to understand the detrimental impact it has on young lives, families, and communities every day. We are pleased to have the following panelists share their experiences and expertise for the evening: Genice Jacobs, Anti-Trafficking Consultant, AbolitionistMom.org; Jennifer Madden, Deputy District Attorney, Alameda County; Sgt. Holly Joshi, Chief of Staff, Oakland Police Department; and Adela Rodarte, Transition Age Youth Services Coordinator, West Coast Children's Clinic.

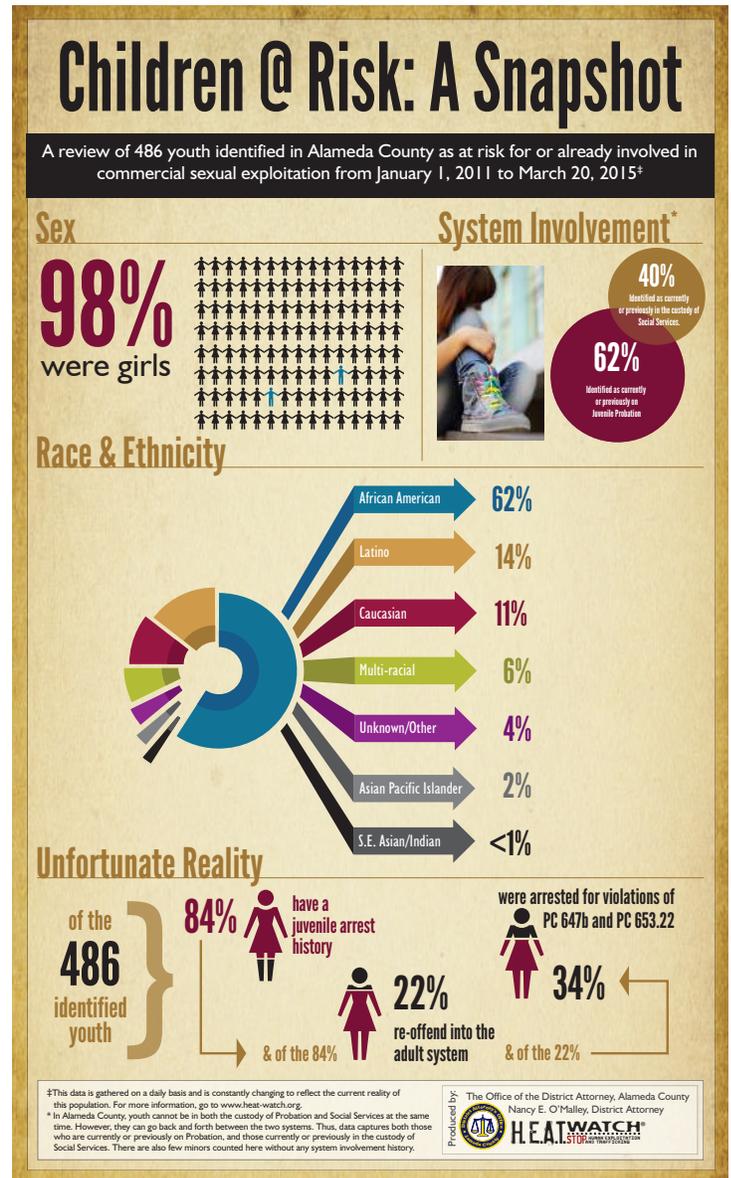
Mark your calendars for our Hot Topics: Human Sex Trafficking on September 21st to continue the discussion.

-Natasha Middleton

Voter Registration Volunteers Needed

Voter Registration is one of the core projects of the League of Women Voters. Here in Oakland, LWV tends to think of it as two separate projects--registration for high school seniors in the schools, and voter registration in the community when we are invited by a local group or when we see a promising opportunity. We're seeking more volunteers to be part of these worthwhile efforts.

Community voter registration outreach occurs throughout the year and is most often, though not always, on evenings and weekends. The typical time commitment is two or three hours per event. Doing this is a great way to make an active contribution to the League and its mission without a fixed long-term commitment.



The next high school voter registration project will take place in the early part of 2016. League volunteers go in groups of three to visit senior government or civics classes and engage the students in a participatory exercise to demonstrate why registering to vote is important, then help eligible students register on the spot. Volunteers need to be available during school hours, and will be asked to be available for two or three mornings or afternoons for the classroom visits. There will be a training meeting scheduled later this fall.

If you are interested in being part of these important activities, please send a message to sandy@sandyv.net, or call me at 530-5799. Thank you!

LWV State Convention Wrap-Up

Delegates from local Leagues around California met in San Diego May 14 through 17, to help set the course for the State League to follow over the coming two years. In addition to informative and inspiring programs described in the Voter June issue, and available on our website at <http://lwvoakland.org/files/VOTER-June-2015.pdf> we accomplished the following, amid the usual passionate League discussion and debate.

Delegates voted to reaffirm current positions:

- Government
- Natural Resources
- Social Policy
- Delegates adopted a recommended change to the Agriculture position to include language about a sustainable water supply. This is consistent with the LWVC position on Water, as well as the Sustainable Communities Action Policy.

See www.lwvoakland.org/positions.html for more on the LWVC positions.

Delegates adopted the following recommended Issues for Education and Advocacy for 2015 - 2017:

- Money in Politics: LWVO is participating in a National League update study of this important and timely issue, so we will be able to take effective action in time for the 2016 elections. See our story on page 3.
- Climate, Sustainable Water, and Protecting the Environment: this includes focus on water, sustainable communities and climate change.
- Election Reform and Voting Rights
- Minimum/Living Wage

Budget

The delegates adopted the two-year LWVC budget for 2015-2017, including Per Member Payment (PMP) increase of \$2.50 each year.

LWVC Bylaws Amendments

Delegates approved eight proposed bylaws amendments intended to clarify and update administrative processes and structures.

We also elected a new Board of Directors and officers, including Oakland's own Helen Hutchison (President) and Sarah Diefendorf (Director).

For more details see the Convention Materials site : <https://lwvc.wordpress.com/>.

Welcome to the New Voter Editor!



LWVO has a new member and new Voter editor, Teresa Johns. Teresa's energy and enthusiasm make her a great addition to the League.

Teresa joined the League early this summer after hearing about it from Natasha Middleton when they were both volunteering on a political campaign. Teresa had been going door to door to talk about the election, and she was horrified by the number of people who told her they didn't plan to vote. Lots of reasons were given, but no apologies. Teresa knows how important voting is to the survival of democracy, and she is glad to be active with an organization that is devoted to making democracy work.

Although she grew up in New Jersey, Teresa has lived in the Bay Area for more than 20 years and definitely considers herself a Bay Area citizen. She works at Humin, a technology company in San Francisco but has lived in Oakland for more than three years. She loves Oakland. "There's a heartbeat in Oakland," she says, "and I want to see that heartbeat stay." She is concerned about current residents being pushed out as wealthier people move in and housing prices rise, and she is worried about the possible departure of all three major sports teams. In addition to her new role in the League, she assists with fundraising for High Altitude Pro, a non-profit that offers free acrobatics classes for youth in addition to life skills training & restorative justice practices (<http://www.highaltitudepro.org/>). She herself is not an acrobat, but she does run in half-marathons a few times a year, and is an avid fan of the Raiders, Warriors and A's. And, of course, the League of Women Voters.

League of Women Voters of Oakland 2015-16 Board of Directors

Louise Rothman-Riemer President president@lwvoakland.org	Eleni Hub Webmaster webmaster@lwvoakland.org	Yolanda Schonbrun V.P. Program program@lwvoakland.org	Dawna Williams At Large atlarge1@lwvoakland.org
Louise Anderson At Large Atlarge2@lwvoakland.org	Jane Klein VP Admin admin@lwvoakland.org	Deborah Shefler VP Voter Service voterservice@lwvoakland.org	Teresa Johns Newsletter Editor teresa.johns@gmail.com
Judi Bank InterLeague Rep interleague@lwvoakland.org	Amy Lyons Treasurer treasurer@lwvoakland.org	Leslie Smith Communications communications@lwvoakland.org	
Mary Bergan Action action@lwvoakland.org	Judy Merrill Voter Service voterservice@lwvoakland.org	Sandy Venning Voter Registration registration@lwvoakland.org	
Anmmarie Hallin Secretary secretary@lwvoakland.org	Natasha Middleton At Large atlarge4@lwvoakland.org	Phyllis White-Ayanruoh Membership membership@lwvoakland.org	

LWVO Annual Meeting and Dinner

The 2015 Annual Meeting/Dinner was held on June 3, at the Laney College Bistro in Oakland. The dinner was nicely prepared by students in the Laney College's Culinary Program. Dinner was followed by the League's Annual Meeting. Yolanda Schonbrun, Program Chair, presented a summary of the 2015-2016 recommended areas for education and advocacy, decided upon by LWVO members at the Program Planning meeting on January 23, 2015. They included: increasing civic engagement, educating on new budget processes, and working to establish guidelines for use and retention of surveillance.

If you are interested in working on one of the three issues during the coming year, please contact the League office for more information (510)834-7640 or on the web at www.lwvoakland.org

Those present unanimously voted to restate the League's Articles of Incorporation. While still retaining non-profit status, LWVO will now be restated as a public benefit corporation rather than a mutual benefit corporation. The public benefit status will allow the League to also claim 501(c) (3) status should they so choose, making donations to the League tax deductible.

Treasurer Amy Lyons presented the budget for 2015-2016. Members present agreed with the Board's decision to raise the annual dues from \$65 to \$70 per year due to an increase in both National and State LWV assessments. Dues assistance is available for those who find the increase a financial challenge.

Additionally, to assist in meeting the budget it was recommended that the VOTER be published every other month, rather than monthly. The content of the VOTER would then carry more indepth articles. In lieu of a monthly VOTER, members will receive timely updates electronically. The budget was passed after much discussion.

Election of Board members and officers brought new people to the Board, including Jane Klein, Administrative Vice President and Phyllis White Ayanruoh, Membership Chair. Chairs for The VOTER and Webmaster were subsequently determined. Teresa Johns and Eleni Hub respectively, will fill those positions. After six years, Katherine Gavzy is stepping down as Board President and Louise Rothman Riemer will become the new President. Deborah Shefler will become the Voter Service Chair and Judy Merrill will become Voter Service Chair emeritus. The Chairs of the various committees informed the members present of upcoming opportunities to become actively involved during the coming year.

Immediately following the meeting, Robert Ogilvie, Oakland SPUR Director, gave a lively, informative talk about the future of urbanism in downtown Oakland.

Please Welcome the Following New Members

Susan Campodonico
Anne Marie Gorman
Joann Van Guillory
John Guillory
Lori Lieneke
Gloria Meads
Christina Sabater
Valena Williams Jr



The League of Women Voters of Oakland
 436 14th Street, Suite 1213
 Oakland, CA 94612

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CALENDAR

(Visit lwvoakland.org for more event listings)

Thurs Sept 10, 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Program: Human Sex Trafficking	Frank H Ogawa Plaza, Hearing Room 3, Oakland, CA
Mon Sep 21 6pm	Hot Topics: Human Sex Trafficking	Conference room 710 at 436 14th Street
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 cospon- sored with Public Ethics Commis- sion (see page 3)	City Council Chambers at Oakland City Hall
Wed, Oct 28th 6:00 - 8:00 pm	Money in Politics Hot Topics infor- mal roundtable discussion	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.