



Understanding Food and Farm Policy

The LWV of Oakland invites you to a joint program meeting with the LWV of Piedmont as part of the national LWVUS Agriculture Study to discuss California and federal farm

policy, including how consolidation of agriculture industries is affecting our food system and such issues as antibiotics in livestock, crop subsidies, water, and genetically modified crops. This informational program is in support of the ongoing national League of Women Voters study to update our Agriculture position. Come learn and prepare to participate in consensus questions in the spring.

We will meet on Wednesday, November 13 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Piedmont Center for the Arts at 801 Magnolia Avenue in Piedmont (near the high



Adam Scow

schools and Piedmont Recreation Center). Visit www.piedmontcenterforthearts.org for directions.

The event will feature speaker Adam Scow, California director at Food & Water Watch, an independent nationwide public interest organization focused on insuring that the food, water, and fish we consume is safe, accessible, and sustainably produced. Among its successful campaigns was a mandatory country-of-origin labeling effort, as well as influencing Starbucks to discontinue using milk from cows treated with artificial growth hormones.

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President's Message

Oakland is rapidly becoming an "Open City." The League, with our fervent dedication to open, transparent, and responsive government, needs to take part in this historic movement. We are already being supportive – LWVO made a statement in favor of the Open Data Policy that passed unanimously at City Council on October 15.



Katherine Gavzy

Now we need to get actively involved. The League will be working with others to ensure that Oakland citizens receive more than noble-sounding assertions of good intentions, and I urge all our members to find a way to take part. It starts with informing yourself. First of all, what is an Open Data Policy? It commits the city to making all public data and documents available proactively to the public in usable formats. Instead of having to submit a request for a record (say a city contract) and wait weeks for a response, we

would only need to describe it in a search on a city website, and get a link to a downloadable, machine-readable document. New options are already available, including online interactive services; you can learn more just trying them out, and it's fun! A few sites to explore: oakland.crimespotting.org; OpenBudgetOakland.org; answers.oaklandnet.org. All still new, with kinks to iron out, but the best way to improve them is to use them. I recently asked for an audit report on the fire prevention district from the RecordTrac system (still in testing) which you can use at records.oaklandnet.com. It was easy to use and quick to respond with helpful information.

Catch the enthusiasm by attending Oakland City Camp, announced on page four. Then watch for calls to action via our own Facebook page, website, and email blasts, as we pressure city government to follow through on its promises. And if this all seems a little confusing and overwhelming, remember that the end goal is to build a city of informed, involved, and empowered residents.

- Katherine Gavzy

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Redistricting Oakland: Transparency Works

Oakland went from claiming that negligible population changes made redistricting unnecessary, to asking a consultant to develop district maps proposing minor changes to three districts for population parity, to implementing a process that was open, looked at the entire city, invited citizen participation, and responded to what neighborhoods and community groups had to say.

About 65 maps and partial maps were produced by a number of individuals and groups, and from comments offered at forums throughout the city and on the web. Consultant Rob Johnson and city staff compiled all the information to develop maps for the City Council to consider. After two public hearings in October, the Council should have a



City of Oakland planner Devan Reiff discussed redistricting at LWVO's October program, just one way the League has sought to address the issue.

photo by Yolanda Schonbrun

final map to adopt at meetings on November 19 and December 10.

The city website has a section (oaklandnet.com/r/2292) where you can view all the maps and submit your own comments.

LWVO, along with our partners in the Oakland Votes Redistricting Coalition, is pleased to have been instrumental in making the 2013 redistricting process an open one. We're already at work with other civic-minded folks on a charter amendment to establish an independent redistricting commission to draw lines in the future. If you are interested in working on this project, please

call Action Committee Chair Mary Bergan at (510) 532-1856.

- Mary Bergan



The intra-League LWVUS Agriculture Update Study Committee (pictured from left: Nancy Bickel of LWVBAE; Betsy King of LWV Piedmont; Trisha Gorman of LWVO; Carol Stone of LWVBAE; Joannie Semitek of LWV Piedmont; Judi Bank and Marion Taylor of LWVO; and Lianne Campodonico of LWV Piedmont) met recently to prepare for the forthcoming consensus process. If you care about GMOs, farm policy, or agricultural water issues, please join us. We're planning a field trip to local farms, and all are welcome. For more details, call (510) 547-3832.

photo courtesy of Trisha Gorman

Hot Topic Recap: K-12 Civic Learning

The goals and activities of the California Task Force on K-12 Civic Learning were the starting point for LWVO's September 25 Hot Topics roundtable discussion. The task force was created by State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court Tani G. Cantil-Sakauye to examine and elevate the role of civic education in our schools. LWVC President Jenny Waggoner is a member of the task force, and attended the roundtable discussion.



Jenny Waggoner

Hot Topics participants talked about what is and isn't being done to teach students about government and to prepare them to be active citizens in our democracy. Recommendations for Jenny to take to the task

force focused on avenues for parent engagement and student projects to identify community needs and implement strategies to meet them.

We also offered ways that the League can work with educators and community members to foster civic values and civic participation. These might include expanding voter registration activities in

high schools, organizing Civics 101 workshops, and working with other groups on door-to-door education on the importance of learning about issues and voting.

"The public needs ways to be inspired about democracy," said one person. "It's deeper than teaching a class in civics; it's our way of life."

The next meeting of the task force will be at the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts in San Francisco on November 18. Learn more at www.cde.ca.gov/eo/in/civicedinitiative.asp.

- Mary Bergan

Next Hot Topic: Measure Y Wednesday, December 4

Oakland voters approved Measure Y, the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act, in 2004. How has it worked? What programs has it funded? What changes should be made in a new Measure Y? Join us in the boardroom of the Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce at 475 14th Street on Wednesday, December 4 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. to discuss these questions and more.

Leaguers Invited to CityCamp Oakland

The Second Annual CityCamp Oakland is on Saturday, November 9, all day starting at 9 a.m. in Oakland's City Hall and is brought to you by OpenOakland, a Code for America Brigade.

CityCamp Oakland brings together citizens, city government, and businesses to openly innovate, enhance transparency and civic engagement, and utilize open-source technology to improve quality of life in our communities.

This event will be hosted inside City Hall and is brought to you by OpenOakland with the awesome

venue provided by the City of Oakland. Visit citycampoak.org to learn more.

Several LWVO members went to the first CityCamp and came back full of excitement over these new roads to civic improvement. We urge all our members to try it out for themselves, and tell us what you think by emailing action@lwvoakland.org. Let's make sure we have a League presence at these events — we have been working for transparency and civic engagement in Oakland for so long.

- Katherine Gavzy

Trial of the Century Debate Held at Laney

Volunteers from the League of Women Voters of Oakland played a key role in the debate on “The” Trial of the 20th Century, held at Laney College on October 9. The historic event featured a panel of four legal giants with over 200 years of trial experience among them: Moderator Jim Brosnahan, civil rights lawyers Howard Moore and John Burris, and criminal defense attorney Doron Weinberg. Laney President Lenora Webb described the evening as exceeding all expectations. She and other attendees delighted in the insights the panel shared as they argued in turn that the most pivotal trial of the last century was the 1994-95 O.J. Simpson trial (argued by Burris), the 1968 Huey Newton death penalty trial (argued by Weinberg), the 1972 Angela Davis conspiracy trial (argued by Moore), or several alternatives from various decades of that century described by Brosnahan and Moore.

The audience members were invited to vote with money placed in ballot boxes monitored by LWVO members Carole Agnello, Louise Anderson, Ann Killebrew, Nancy Middleton, and Allene Warren, who also helped with registration. The LWVO members then oversaw the vote count and verified that the Newton trial won. Proceeds went to two charitable recipients: Restorative Justice for Oakland Youth (or “RJOY,” whose executive director is Fania Davis, the younger sister of Angela Davis) and the documentary film project, “The Real Trial of the 20th Century,” based on the award-winning book by retired Judge (and LWVO member) Lise Pearlman, “The Sky’s the Limit: People v. Newton, the Real Trial of the 20th Century?”

The mission of RJOY since its founding in

2005 is to interrupt tragic cycles of youth violence, incarceration, and wasted lives that have resulted from punitive school discipline and juvenile justice policies. Instead, RJOY uses education, training, and technical assistance to reduce racial disparities and public costs associated with high rates of incarceration, suspension, and expulsion by working collaboratively with schools, community partners, and juvenile justice staff. RJOY promotes institutional shifts toward restorative approaches that actively engage families, communities, and systems to repair harm and prevent reoffending.

Directed by two-time Academy Award nominee Robert Richter (www.richterprod.com),

the documentary film project focuses on the Alameda County justice system’s handling of the sensationalized murder trial of Black Panther Party Co-Founder Huey Newton in the volatile summer of 1968.

The film features the

first known black foreman of a major death penalty trial in America and showcases the impact a diverse “jury of one’s peers” can have on the outcome of a polarizing trial. The League can be proud of how its members helped launch this historic event.

- Lise Pearlman

LWV California Releases New “Guide to California Government”

The League of Women Voters of California has recently released the 15th edition of its “Guide to California Government,” a book designed to engage and inform readers by emphasizing the public’s role in California government. For more information, visit www.lwvc.org/G2CG, or call (916) 442-7215.



BRE# 00875454



Terry Kulka

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

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Support the League through Your Will

One easy way to support the good work of the League of Women Voters is to remember the LWV Oakland chapter in your will. By making bequests and other “planned gifts” to the League, you can leave a legacy of helping us to expand and enhance programs and voter education in your community. Please remember that although the legacies you typically read about in the papers are grand in scope, most people who leave assets to charitable organizations through their wills are of modest means. Gifts large and small are important and we need your help.

So how do you remember the Oakland chapter of League of Women Voters in your will? While planning or

updating your will, simply tell your attorney that you want to leave something for our chapter. A common practice when including a bequest in your estate is to leave a percentage, rather than a fixed amount, to us. That way, your bequest to our organization remains in proportion to other bequests. And remember to specify League of Women Voters of Oakland. All levels of the League do good work, but this is your League.

- Emily Wilson



SAVE THE DATE

Celebrate the holidays with LWV Oakland
Friday, December 13, 6 to 8 p.m.

No policy analysis, no politics

Just pleasure in one another's company

Details in the December Voter

Submit Nominations for Luncheon Awards

Do you know of an Oakland resident or organization that has envisioned a way to improve Oakland and has mobilized others to work together to effect a change that has benefited the broader community of our city?

We invite you to nominate such a person or organization to be the winner of one of the two Making Democracy Work Awards that we'll present at our 2014 All-City Luncheon. Nominations should

be submitted using the form found on LWVO's website or in the middle of your October issue of the Voter. Call the LWVO office at (510) 834-7640 if you'd like us to mail you a copy of the form.

Nominations must be received at the office or via email by Sunday, December 15. Questions? Call Luncheon co-chairs Dawna Williams at (510) 921-9153 or Bonnie Hamlin at (510) 658-6212.

- Bonnie Hamlin

Membership Renewal and Interest Survey

Renew your membership and send in your interest survey and we will enter your name for exciting prizes to be awarded at the League Christmas Party on December 13. Prizes include a guest membership to Club One Fitness, gift certificates, and a ticket to our annual Luncheon. The deadline to qualify for a prize is December 5. If you have renewed but not sent in your survey, send it in now, even if it says, “Sorry, I'm too busy.” The survey and renewal forms are online at lwvoakland.org (select “Join/Renew”), or you can renew directly online via Paypal by visiting http://lwvoakland.org/join_online.html.

Join our social network!



twitter.com/LWV_Oakland



facebook.com/lwvoak

Membership Updates

Welcome New Members

Leyna Bernstein & Brian Parker

John Murray

Ruthann Taylor

Welcome Back

Eleni Hub

Losses in the League Family

Ken Lane, widower of long-time member Jana Lane, died in late September. Our thoughts are with his children and friends at this time of loss.

SHARE THIS WITH A FRIEND – INVITE THEM TO JOIN US!

Membership in the League of Women Voters of Oakland is a bargain and a statement. It's a bargain because you will have access to valuable information and insights via the Voter newsletters and LWV websites, through membership not only in LWVO but also in LWV Bay Area, LWV California and LWVUS, and via a variety of events and dialogues with key leaders throughout the year.

Your statement as a League member will be that you are committed to providing non-biased, well-researched information to voters, and that the issues your League follows are those that affect every area in Oakland: schools, public safety, local government, parks, our economy, and more.

Join the League, one of the nation's most trusted, nonpartisan grassroots organizations where "hands-on work to safeguard democracy leads to civic improvement."

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$65) | <input type="checkbox"/> Each additional member at an address (\$32.50) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student membership (\$25) | <input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income (\$10 minimum) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Susan B. Anthony Membership (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Elizabeth Cady Stanton Membership (\$250) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrie Chapman Catt Membership (\$500) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Name/Names: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ZIP: _____

Day phone: _____ Evening: _____ E-mail: _____

Make checks payable to LWVO, and mail to 1305 Franklin Street #311, Oakland CA 94612-3222.
Dues are not tax deductible.



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CALENDAR		
Monday, November 11 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Board Meeting	St. Paul's Towers 17th Floor Library 100 Bay Place Oakland, CA 94610
Wednesday, November 13 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	Food and Farm Policy Program	Piedmont Center for the Arts 801 Magnolia Avenue Piedmont, CA 94611
Wednesday, December 4 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.	Hot Topic: Measure Y	Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce 475 14th Street Oakland, CA 94612

DONATE TO THE LEAGUE

We rely on dues and donations to support our programs.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

I wish my contribution to remain anonymous.

I wish my contribution to be tax deductible where allowed by law. My check is made out to the LWV Oakland Education Fund, which is a 501(c)(3) organization.

I wish to support the League's action priorities. My check is made out to the League of Women Voters and is not tax-deductible.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please mail to:

LWV Oakland

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