

LWVBA VOTER



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area



September 2016



Senator Jim Beall, our keynote speaker for our 2016 Bay Area League Day, helped secure additional funding for the six-mile extension from the future Berryessa station east to Santa Clara. The \$20 million cap-and-trade funds approved by the state Transportation Agency is seen as a down payment on a long term commitment by the state to finish the BART extension.

LWVBA board voted to support the November 2016 BART bond measure. The money raised by this General Obligation bond will be invested in the renewal of the BART system by improving safety and access, repairing and replacing critical infrastructure, and increasing capacity. This will involve replacing and upgrading 90 miles of severely worn tracks; addressing tunnels damaged by water intrusion, and upgrading the 44-year-old train control systems. A seven-member bond oversight committee will provide quarterly reports to the public on the progress of work being done.

LWVBA board also voted to support the November AC Transit ballot measure, which is an extension of an existing measure. AC Transit is the East Bay's largest public transportation provider, serving more people than any other agency. AC Transit provides safe, reliable, and sustainable service for over 175,000 rides per day and over 700,000 paratransit rides (for seniors and people with disabilities and others with limited transit options) annually. The measure would support extending access to public transit to those who need it the most, thus adhering to one of the main themes in Bay Area League Day 2016 - social justice in access and fare pricing. (cont. p.5)

SAVE THE DATES

LWV BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY
FOCUS ON HOUSING

JANUARY 28, 2017



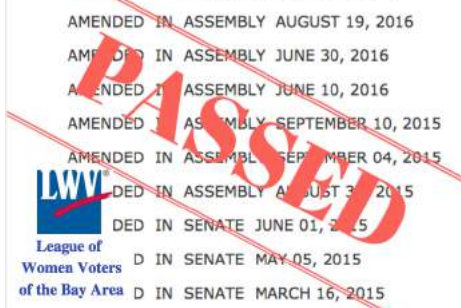
APRIL 29, 2017

LWV BAY AREA
COUNCIL

WWW.LWVBAYAREA.ORG

Major Win for Climate Legislation

CA SB32



On August 24, the State Legislature approved **SB 32** (Pavley), which places into law the Governor's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% from 1990 levels by 2030, and also **AB 197** (E. Garcia), which provides transparency and accountability for the California Air Resources Board, and adds disadvantaged communities and those most affected by air pollution as a priority consideration. Governor Brown said he intends to sign the bills.

This culminates a major campaign during the current legislative session for the LWV of California, which made climate change

legislation a priority at its convention in May 2015. LWVC was among the organizations that led the effort to achieve passage of SB 350 last year, and continued the fight into 2016. SB 32, setting the target for GHG reductions in the future, briefly died in the Assembly last summer. It was revived and linked with AB 197, to address the major concerns of moderate Democrats who represented districts in the Central Valley and inner cities near pollution sources.

When both bills (SB 32 and AB 197) emerged from the Suspense file in Appropriations in mid-August 2016, things moved very quickly (the votes were there), so LWVC partnered with our Green coalition organizations to co-sign support flyers that were distributed to members of the Legislature.

Diz Swift and I are advisors to LWVC on Climate Change legislation, and we thank the LWVBAE League for their energetic efforts. Great Win!!!!

Linda Craig, LWVC Climate Consultant

AIR DISTRICT OUTREACH



Bay Area Air Quality Management District launched a new civic engagement tool, **Open Air Forum**, an online resource that offers the public a new opportunity to interact with the Air District and provide feedback on specific Air District topics. The first topic is on emissions reduction measures proposed to be included in the Air District's 2016 Clean Air Plan and Regional Climate Protection Strategy. The Open Air Forum may be accessed through Air District website homepage at www.baaqmd.gov

Bay Day is a newly dedicated annual celebration spearheaded by Save the Bay to designate October 1st as a special day when the Bay Area comes together to celebrate San Francisco Bay. Cities and counties are taking action to recognize the first Saturday of October in future years as "Bay Day." ABAG is requesting that Cities and Counties in the Bay Area pass proclamations recognizing Bay Day. Learn more: <http://abag.ca.gov/bayday/index.html>



Inter League Organizations (ILOs) are formal organizations recognized by the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). In California, there are four ILO's: San Diego, Los Angeles, Orange County and the Bay Area. The Bay Area ILO serves 20 local Leagues from Napa County to Mountain View. Created in 1961, the Bay Area ILO functions within the geographic lines bounding the nine Bay Area counties. These are the same geographic lines as the Bay Area Regional Collaborative (BARC), formerly known as The Joint Policy Committee. BARC coordinates the planning efforts of the [Association of Bay Area Governments \(ABAG\)](#), the [Bay Area Air Quality Management District \(BAAQMD\)](#), the [Bay Conservation and Development Commission \(BCDC\)](#), and the [Metropolitan Transportation Commission \(MTC\)](#).

LWVBA history

In the 1940s concerns about the overlapping problems between city and county services resulted in formation of League county councils. In 1953, as urban dwellers moved to the ever-expanding suburbs, LWVUS

issued a study outline, *A Guide to a Metropolitan Area Study*, calling attention to the new political and social problems related to whole economic First steps toward an area-wide or regional League in the San Francisco Bay Area came in among local League members that eight local

and possible governmental solutions in 1959. In 1960, 10 Leagues adopted a follow up study evaluating proposals relating to metropolitan government in the Bay Area. April 1961 saw the formal establishment of a permanent organization, the LEAGUES OF WOMEN VOTERS OF THE BAY AREA (LWVBA). An "Inter League Organization," (ILO), was the official title given to such a group of Leagues organized to address any area-wide or regional problem.

Inter-League Organizations can be as small as two local leagues, as in the San Diego ILO, whose inter-league consists of North County San Diego and San Diego Leagues in California, or as large as the recently formed ILO in the Upper Mississippi River Region (LWV-UMRR ILO). It currently encompasses 33 local Leagues in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, and enthusiastically plans to include a total of 78 Leagues. This ILO converged after collaborating on the 2014 program *Storm Water From the Ground Up*. The guiding vision of UMRR ILO is to transcend state boundaries on the topic of natural resources by forming an alliance to these collective interests before Congress and federal agencies.

Other ILOs across the U.S. include Nassau County, New York; Delaware County, Delaware; La Cross Piedmont, Wisconsin; Naperville, Washington; and Pennsylvania's Bergen County ILO, which serves 30 or more local Leagues and is another very large ILO.

National Voter Registration Day is September 27th. Is your League planning to participate in NRVD? LWVBA wants to help you promote your events. Send us your dates, times, and locations to communications@lwvba.org. After the event, send us your photos for the next edition of the Voter. Information on National Voter Registration can be found at <http://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/>

Rent Stabilization/Rent Control

Rent control is a type of municipal law designed to mitigate the disruptive effect of escalating rents on neighborhoods and individual renters and to encourage adequate maintenance in markets with a housing shortage. While there is no State of California rent control law, 11 cities have rent control ordinances. Tenants rights advocates believe rent control protects renters from severe economic hardship and displacement while allowing landlords to make a fair rate of return on their property. Rent control supporters maintain that the market left to its own devices does not produce affordable housing. Opponents argue that rent control laws dissuade developers from building new housing units. The resulting lack of supply raises housing prices.

California in the late 1970s saw a rent control revolution triggered by runaway inflation and the failure of Prop 13 to deliver expected rent reductions. Case law held that rent regulation was not invalid just because it reduced property values. The Supreme Court has held that rent control does not constitute a taking. However, growth in net operating income – a fair return – must be permitted. The Ellis Act was passed in 1985. It allows landlords to evict tenants if they decide to remove their units

from the rental market for 5 years or more. In areas with high job growth like San Francisco and Silicon Valley, Ellis Act evictions have risen dramatically as older low density apartment units are demolished and replaced with more expensive rental units or for-sale condominiums.

When California landlords failed to win statewide rent control repeal, they persuaded the Legislature in 1995 to pass the Costa-Hawkins Rental Housing Act. It preempted local rent control laws in two important ways. It exempted all new construction by prohibiting any unit issued a certificate of occupancy after February 1, 1995 from being rent controlled. It also exempted single-family homes. Second, it allowed landlords to increase rental rates to what the market would bear when there is a change in occupancy. This is known as vacancy decontrol. Some studies indicate that rent controlled units reset to the market every 5 years. In Oakland and San Jose, this means that landlords for two-thirds of all rental units can raise rents as much as they want. Over 20 years after passage, there are only a handful of published decisions addressing the law with two issued recently. It is now, much like Prop 13 regarded as a third rail in political discourse.

Your Input Needed for Bay Area League Day



Housing displacement concerns are far reaching. Our community compositions are fluctuating due to affordability. We're a people in migration - changing the face of the Bay Area. This year, League Day will focus on the many reasons causing our housing predicament.

We're interested in hearing what topics, related to increasing the Bay Area's supply of affordable

housing; most interests you and your League members? Suggestions to date include rent control/stabilization, displacement compensation, inclusionary zoning and State action/inaction on various housing related issues. Have you heard an interesting speaker or viewed an informative presentation? What individuals or organizations do you want to participate as on a panel? Has your city or county done something noteworthy regarding housing? Send your thoughts, questions, and suggestions to housing@lwvba.org.

Bay Area League Day studied housing in 2012.
View the program and watch speakers here:
<http://www.lwvbayarea.org/documents.html>

Supporting Local Transit



The board of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area voted to support the November 2016 BART bond measure. The money raised by this General Obligation bond will be invested in the renewal of the BART system by improving safety and access, repairing and replacing critical infrastructure, and increasing capacity. This will involve replacing and upgrading 90 miles of severely worn tracks; addressing tunnels damaged by water intrusion, and upgrading the 44-year-old train control systems. A seven-member bond oversight committee will provide quarterly reports to the public on the progress of work being done.

(continued from page 1)

Transportation News

Studies indicate that the population of ferry riders will increase significantly in the next 20-years. The Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program where employers register to offer commuter benefits to employees, is off and running to help ease commute expenses and emissions. SMART - Sonoma Marin Area Rapid Transit should be running by year's end. MTC and ABAG continue their talks about joining forces so that the link is addressed between transportation, affordable housing, sea level rise, preservation of agricultural land, and policies addressing displacement in infill projects. The projected goal is to have 80% of homes and 60% of jobs well served by transit. A lofty goal even when "well served" is not clearly defined.

"You Choose Bay Area"

Still time to respond to the four-question survey

<http://buildabetterbayarea.org/>

Regional Transit Agency information List

<http://511.org/transit/schedules-agency-info/bus>

LWVC Higher Ed Position APPROVED by the Board

(Abridged Version)

Position in Brief:

The League of Women Voters of California supports a comprehensive system of public higher education that serves the personal, professional, and occupational goals of all adult Californians and advances the social, economic, and civic needs of the state. To achieve these objectives, public higher education must prioritize access, affordability, equity, and excellence. These priorities require state funding, including student financial aid, that is stable, predictable, sustainable, and timely.

Purpose 1. Support a comprehensive system of public higher education that provides access to educational opportunities to advance both individual and public goals.

Equity 2. Support equitable access to public higher education and equitable rates of completion. Support measures

Funding and Financial Aid 3. Support state funding for California public higher education and student financial aid.

Preparedness 4. Support programs that foster coordination and articulation between preK-12 school districts and public higher education so that all high school graduates are prepared for college-level coursework and/or gainful employment.

Degree Completion 5. Support programs that increase attainment of certificates, and associate, baccalaureate, and professional degrees.

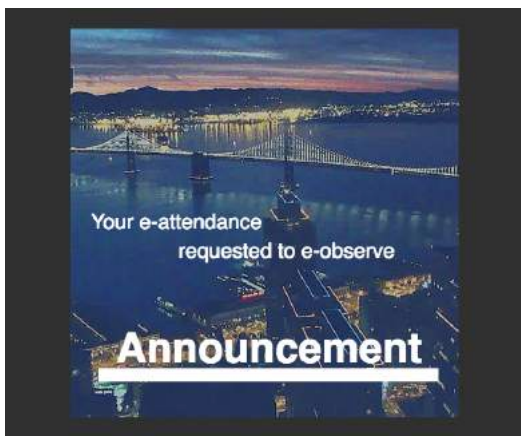
Workforce Development and Adult Education 6. Support access to credit, non-credit, and workforce training and development.

Improving California Public Higher Education 7. Support a comprehensive system of public higher education with viable access points for all adult Californians.

Adopted by the LWVC board July 2016

Read more at: <https://lwvc.org/our-work/positions/position-public-higher-education#sthash.TWUBVnTX.dp>

E-observers Needed



We need your help by e-attending regional and local agency meetings. As you know, many regional and local agencies are mandated to provide open meetings to the community. LWVBA needs you to help us e-attend meetings, then email a summary paragraph of the hot topics. Just a paragraph is needed to provide us with a meeting update. If you would like to be a regular e-observer or an occasional e-observer, please send a note to communications@lwvba.org.

Regional agencies such as ABAG and BAAQD, local water agencies East Bay MUD, and Transportation agencies such as VTA and Marin Transit need you to observe

EVENTS AROUND THE BAY

SEPTEMBER 2016

SEPT 3rd - 4th

LWV ALAMEDA

COLLABORATING ON THE CLOUD WORKSHOP
101: FROM ORGANIZED CHAOS TO
VOLUNTEERING ZEN
<https://www.facebook.com/events/808633145903963/>

SEPT 10TH 9-12:00 pm

LWV SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

FALL KICK OFF EVENT-SPEAKER MARK
CHURCH, CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER
http://www.lwvnet.org/lwv/ca/ssmc/files/voter_2011-09.pdf

SEPT 11 2:30-4:30 pm

LWV SOUTH SAN MATEO COUNTY

World Affairs Council of Northern California
Peninsula Chapter "Kicking Off" "The Peace
Corps at 50 — Making a Difference" panel
discussion (members \$10, students \$5, and
non-members \$15) RSVP 415-293-4600

SEPT 15 7-9 pm

LWV MARIN FALL KICK OFF

FALL KICK OFF EVENT-SPEAKER RETIRING 4TH
DISTRICT SUPERVISORY STEVE KINSEY
<http://www.marinlwv.org/events/2016/5/21/fall-kick-off-hold-the-date>

SEPT 15th - Oct 15th

National Latino Heritage Month

SEPT 21ST 1:30 - 3:00 pm

SENIOR MOBILITY DISCUSSION

Berkeley Public Library, 2090 Kittredge St.,
3rd Floor Community Room
Free to the Public (510) 839-1608

SEPT 26TH 11:30 - 1:00 pm

LWV MARIN

International Relations Quarterly Event -
speaker Frank Rettenberg from the World
Affairs Council RSVP: (415) 507-0824

SEPT 27th

National Voter Registration Day

Bay Area leagues from around the Bay plan to
register voters during this one-day event. Be
sure to visit <http://www.nrvd.org> and add your
'pin' to the geographical map showing where
your voter registration events will be located.

OCTOBER 2016

OCT 1ST - ABAG BAY DAY

<http://abag.ca.gov/bayday/index.html>

OCT 3rd 12-1:30 pm

LWV MARIN

MEMBERS/ACTION MEETING CA PROS/CONS
PRESENTATION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
<HTTP://WWW.MARINLWV.ORG>

OCT 6TH- 7-9 pm

PIEDMONT LWV

ENERGY CONSERVATION DISCUSSION
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1140538055961315/>

OCT 10TH 11:30 am

LWVNORTH/CENTRAL SAN MATEO

FUNDRAISING LUNCHEON FOR 100TH
ANNIVERSARY Women's Right to Vote in CA |
Tickets \$75

OCT 18th 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

**INTER-LEAGUE NORTH BI-MONTHLY
MEETING**

[436 14th Street, Suite TBD, Oakland, CA Info](http://43614thStreetSuiteTBD.Oakland.CAInfo)
[write to: communications@lwvba.org](mailto:communications@lwvba.org)

Oct 24th

Last Day to Register to Vote

Nov. 8th General Election

Send your upcoming events to
communications@lwvba.org



Explore
**THE BAY
AREA
MONITOR**



August/September 2016

<http://bayareamonitor.org/read>

**STORYTELLING ACROSS
CENTURIES: NATIONAL
PARKS SERVICE AT 100**



About two hours after sunset on July 17, 1944, a huge explosion ripped through the night at Port Chicago on Suisun Bay. A chain reaction blew up the pier and two ships, one fully loaded with munitions and the other waiting to be loaded with explosives from railcars on the pier. The blast created a debris-filled cloud that shot 12,000 feet into the air, broke windows in San Francisco, and reverberated to Nevada. It killed 320 men, two-thirds of whom were African Americans who had enlisted to serve in battle, but instead had been segregated into menial jobs such as munitions loaders.

<http://bayareamonitor.org/storytellingacrosscenturies-nps-at-100/>

**BUILDING A HIGHER
STANDARD: THE
ENVIRONMENTAL UPSIDE
OF CALGREEN**



Sometimes it's the little things that do really count, especially when they are done by many people many times. One classic example is replacing an incandescent light bulb with an energy-efficient one. Do that in your living room, and you probably won't notice a difference on your electric bill, but if a million other households follow suit, the collective drop in energy use will be significant.

<http://bayareamonitor.org/building-a-higher-standard-the-environmental-upside-of-calgreen/>

GETTING SMART: REGION'S NEWEST RAIL SYSTEM NEARLY READY TO ROLL



At the Penngrove Independence Day parade, residents filed into the [Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit](http://bayareamonitor.org/getting-smart-regions-newest-rail-system-nearly-ready-to-roll/) (SMART) diesel locomotive on display. They commented on its “new car smell” and lined up at the info desk on board, asking about bridge crossings while snagging railway logo backpacks.

“It’s great,” said Kathryn Harmon, a Santa Rosa resident, about the Bay Area’s newest transit system that will roll by year’s end. “It will save people’s commute.”

<http://bayareamonitor.org/getting-smart-regions-newest-rail-system-nearly-ready-to-roll/>

BEACH BACTERIA WATCH: KEEPING COMPLIANT ON THE BAY SHORELINE



The San Francisco Bay — with a shoreline half as long as the entire coast of California — is a draw for people who love water sports from swimming to kayaking to windsurfing. But some beaches on the Bay are contaminated by fecal pathogens, threatening the health of those who come for fun in and on the water. Now, spurred by new regulations for bacteria on our beaches, cities are cleaning up the waterfronts that drain into these troubled shores.

<http://bayareamonitor.org/beach-bacteria-watch-keeping-compliant-on-the-bay-shoreline/>