



League of Women Voters
of the Bay Area

www.lwvbayarea.org



VOTER
August, 2012

Welcome to your source of news for LWVBA
Please feel free to use any of these articles in your local Voter
and mark your League calendars with our events.

Calendar

Bay Area League Day: WATER
Saturday, February 2, 2013, 9-2
First Unitarian Church of Oakland
685 14th Street, Oakland.

LWV Bay Area Council
Saturday, May 4, 10-12,
Location to be announced.

Bay Area Monitor

The August/September Bay Area Monitor is the Aging Infrastructure Edition.

Infrastructure supports everything we do, yet we rarely even notice it. Aiming to give it greater visibility, this special edition of the Monitor focuses on the problems that arise as infrastructure ages — in water systems, bridges, transportation, parks, and locomotive engines.

Every League member should be a subscriber to the Bay Area Monitor. The League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Education Fund distributes the Monitor both online and in print at no cost to interested readers. To receive notification when new issues of the Bay Area Monitor have been published online, sign up at <http://www.bayareamonitor.org>. To receive a paper subscription call (510) 839-1608.



Regional Planning Status Update

In May, MTC and ABAG have jointly approved a “Preferred Land Use Scenario and Transportation Investment Strategy”, which is the foundation of the Sustainable Communities Strategy for the SF Bay Area. This is available at www.onebayarea.org. For purposes of the Environmental Impact Review, several alternatives have been identified that give more or less emphasis on transportation, housing, infill and social needs. The draft EIR is scheduled to be released on December 14, with hearings to be held in January 2013

In July, ABAG also approved a final draft Regional Housing Need Allocation (RHNA) methodology for Bay Area cities. Information is available at www.abag.ca.gov. Requests for revisions are due by September 18, 2012, and final adoption will be made on May 16, 2013. Local Housing Element Revisions must be adopted by October, 2014

MTC approved the “One Bay Area Grants” (OBAG) program, which is an incentive-based program designed to stimulate the production of housing in areas well-served by transportation, particularly public transit. It uses federal transportation dollars to reward jurisdictions that accept the RHNA housing allocations and that actually produce housing.

We urge you to pay attention to these issues in your local community and be involved in the process.

Linda Craig,

LWVBA Regional Planning Director



STAND BY YOUR AD

Do you watch TV or listen to the radio? Would you like to do something about the false and deceptive political ads this fall? If so, we have a very easy assignment for you!

FlackCheck.org is a new project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania. As part of flackcheck.org, they are sponsoring a campaign called "Stand By Your Ad" to call on broadcasters to fact-check the political ads they run.

The campaign has two ways to participate. The first is to send email messages to any broadcaster in your area, asking them to insist on accuracy of any third-party ads they air. We encourage everyone to let your local broadcasters know that you are watching, and you don't like deceptive advertising.

The second part of the campaign is to fact-check ads that you see. If an ad you see makes claims that seem to be deceptive or questionable, make a note of the ad, station and time. Be sure to have your truth-checking radar turned on for all political advertising. No position or issue is immune from the temptation to stretch the truth. You can go to <http://www.factcheck.org> to seek checks made by others.

Look at FlackCheck.org to find a copy of the ad and read an analysis of it, including its adherence to the truth. If you believe the ad is deceptive, false, or misleading, you can use the FlackCheck.org email system to send an email to the broadcaster.

Which ads should you watch for and report? We are particularly interested in third-party ads; these are not the ads submitted by candidate-controlled organizations or by a political party, but instead the ads placed by non-candidate entities—PACs, super PACs and other organizations not specifically related to parties or candidates.

While broadcasters are required to run candidate- and party-controlled ads with no editorial review, they—the broadcasters—are legally responsible for the accuracy of any other advertising they run. This includes the third-party political advertising.

However, they have no incentive to fact check this advertising; they make millions of dollars during campaign season, mostly from these third-party ads. It is up to us, the public, to hold them accountable.

League members are encouraged to participate in the Stand By Your Ad campaign, and to spread the word about it to your friends and neighbors.

To find out more about FlackCheck.org or the Stand By Your Ad campaign, go to FlackCheck.org. You can also listen to the speech by Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Professor of Communication at the Annenberg School and Director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center, in which she introduced us to FlackCheck.org. The video of her speech is available [here](#).

Helen Hutchison, LWV California Board

InterLeague Network

Representatives of the 20 Bay Area Leagues meet to share news and ideas.

Upcoming meetings:

IN South - September 13, 12:00-1:30

LWV Palo Alto office

IN North - October 16, 1:30-3:00

LWVBA office

League Websites

United States www.lwv.org

California www.lwvc.org

Bay Area www.lwvbayarea.org

Smart Voter www.smartvoter.org