



**MAY 20TH MEETING**

**DISCUSSION OF THE IMPACT  
OF THE GOVERNOR'S LOCAL  
SCHOOL FUNDING PROPOSAL**

**Featuring**

**OUR THREE SCHOOL  
SUPERINTENDENTS**

**JAMES MORRIS, FREMONT  
KEVIN HARRINGTON, NEWARK  
KARI MCVEIGH, UNION CITY**

**Location - tbd  
Time - 6:30 p.m.**

**What is the proposal?  
How does it affect our  
schools?  
Is this a good proposal  
for the students?, staff?  
Education as a whole?**

***In This Issue***

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**REALIGNMENT**

**WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ALAMEDA CO.?**

**FIND OUT THE ANSWERS ON APRIL 22<sup>ND</sup>  
FROM**

**SUSAN MURANISHI  
ALAMEDA CO. ADMINISTRATOR**

**SILLIMAN CENTER  
6800 MOWRY AVE  
NEWARK**

**DOORS OPEN 6:30 P.M.  
SPEAKER 7:00 P.M.**

**WHY REALIGNMENT NOW?**

**WHERE WILL THE BIGGEST IMPACT  
OCCUR?**

**HOW DOES IT FIT IN WITH TODAY'S  
BUDGET CHALLENGES?**

**WHAT PERCENTAGE OF THE COUNTY'S  
BUDGET IS AFFECTED?**

**WHAT IS THE TOTAL BUDGET FOR  
ALAMEDA COUNTY?**

## President's Message



April is tax month. And different things are happening to our taxes this year. The Governor's realignment is in place, including the Constitution thanks to Prop. 30. The State is sending money to the counties to implement his budget proposals.

It includes the public safety side of realignment. The Counties' new responsibilities for managing, supervising, and rehabilitating "low level" offenders and parolees will transform the state's criminal justice system over the next several years as well as bring down state spending on prisons. But \$3.9 billion out of \$5.9 billion in 2012-13 will support health and human services programs, including Child Welfare Services, Foster Care, substance abuse treatment and mental health services. This is the first full year of this proposal for the counties. How is it working? Is the State sending enough money to the counties to do the jobs that the State has been doing?

How is Alameda County faring with the new money and the new responsibility? We have our County Administrator Susan Murabishi to explain the system and how it is working at our April meeting. Come and find out if this monumental change will stimulate or stifle Alameda County.

At our last Board meeting we were introduced to the new portable microphone system that has recently been purchased for us by our Administrative Vice President Sam Neeman.

We still have to interview our new Congressman, Mike Honda of the 17<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. This will take place on Tuesday, April 2 at 11 am. If you are interested and available, contact me immediately. We also still need to interview Senator Ellen Corbett. If you are interested in that interview, contact me.

If you are interested in getting more involved with our League, let me know. I have skillions of small jobs that are going unfilled because our experienced Leaguers have run out of time.

The Education Committee meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 7:00 and the Action Committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at noon. If you are interested and available, let me know.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-13

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## CALL TO LWV Bay Area Council

**Saturday, May 4, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. – 12 noon**

**Woodside Independence Hall**

**2955 Woodside Rd., Woodside**

(DIRECTIONS WILL BE IN THE COUNCIL KIT)

### Composition and Powers of Council

In accordance with ARTICLE XI, Section 1 of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area Bylaws, the Council shall be composed of the directors of the LWVBA and two delegates from each local League as follows:

- 1) the local League President and the Bay Area chair (representative), or
- 2) alternates to be selected by the local League

In accordance with ARTICLE XI, Section 3 of the Bylaws, the Council shall give guidance to the board on program, methods of operation and budget as submitted by the board. The Council shall adopt a budget for the fiscal year.

**Registration: \$10 per League (no extra charge for additional attendees.)**

To pay in advance, please send a \$10 check per League payable to LWVBA to:

Eloise Bodine

1521 Lincoln Street

Berkeley CA 94703

Please make reservations by Friday, April 27, 2013 by e-mail: [ebodi@comcast.net](mailto:ebodi@comcast.net) if you chose to pay at the door on the day of the Council.

### Speaker

Alicia Aguirre, Mayor of Redwood City

*San Mateo County's new appointee to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, will give a short talk on Plan Bay Area.*

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## PLAN BAY AREA

The Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) on March 22<sup>nd</sup> released the Draft Plan Bay Area. This starts the public comment period for the long-range plan that looks forward to the year 2040. A companion Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be released a week later on March 29, 2013. The public comment period for the Draft Plan and Draft EIR will extend until May 16, 2013.

Plan Bay Area charts a course for accommodating needed housing growth within our nine counties while at the same time decreasing greenhouse gas emissions from cars and light trucks.

By laying out the Bay Area's first-ever Sustainable Communities Strategy, Plan Bay Area seeks to meet these challenges without compromising local control of land-use decisions.

### Alameda County Plan Bay Area Open House/Public Hearing

Date: Wednesday, May 1, 2013

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Location: Mirage Ballroom  
4100 Peralta Blvd.,  
Fremont, CA, 94536

*This is the only Alameda county hearing! Come and learn more about this important plan.*

Held in May in odd-numbered years, this is the chance for all of our members to network, share their skills, and discuss the future. The public is welcome to attend workshops, guest speakers during meals, and to observe our plenary.

If you would like to be a voting delegate, speak to our President, Miriam Keller. Your board will also support your registration fee (4/5 of total fee) if you wish to attend for one day..

The convention will be headquartered at Dolce Hayes Mansion in San Jose. Formerly a lavish private estate, it now provides the latest technologies in internet connection for delegates. You can also make it a mini-vacation with body therapies, massages or facials at Inspa at Dolce Hayes Mansion. They have a fitness center, heated pool and Jacuzzi. You can relax your body and sharpen your mind at the same time!

Guest speakers this year include Kim Klein, internationally known fundraising trainer, Ann Ravel, Chair of the California Fair Political Practices Commission, and Chris Hoene, Executive Director of the California Budget Project.

Workshops and Caucuses include the following:

Pre-Convention workshops - Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>

- Taking action in Your Community: An Intensive, Hands On Workshop about Advocacy in the local League environment
- The Future of Voter Service: Learn How to Use Smart Voter's "Next Generation" for Your League

Friday workshops – May 17<sup>th</sup>

- Kim Klein – How to Raise \$25,000 in Six Weeks
- Healthcare Reform for California and the Affordable Care Act (ACA)
- Local Advocacy on State Issues
- MyLeague's Web Site
- Video Pros & Cons: a Guide for League

Saturday workshops – May 18<sup>th</sup>

- A Citizen's Guide to the California State Budget
- Community Outreach – Expanding the Mission and Galvanizing Civic Engagement
- Discover the Future of Voter Service on the Web with Smart Voter's "Next Generation"
- MyLeague Charging into Social Media – bring your laptop or iPad

Information about Caucuses will be available at a later date.

There will also be presentation of awards for Program and Advocacy, Member Retention, Best VOTER and Voter Service and a Best Website Award. Plenary sessions for delegates and observers are scheduled for Friday and Saturday mornings and afternoons. The final plenary sessions will occur on Sunday morning and afternoon. The new state board will be elected during the last plenary.

If you want to learn more about the schedule and content of workshops, go to LWVC's web site, [lwvc.org](http://lwvc.org).

## **Legislative Interview with Assemblyman Bob Wieckowski**

**1. California Budget:** *California has both an ongoing structural imbalance, with insufficient revenue for the programs we would like to support, and an ongoing problem with the actual process of passing a budget. Even though we just passed Proposition 30, we recognize that this is just a first step towards financial stability for California.*

*a. What measures would you support to continue the progress that Proposition 30 represents?*

*b. What measures would you support to change the budget process?*

Given the current political spectrum, he does not see likelihood that there will be legislation to make the Prop 30 changes permanent. There will be seven years under 30 until it “sunset” to move to make it permanent. If the Democrats in the Legislature can hold the super-majority in next election, there is possibility in future years for that happening. He does see an opportunity to get a measure through legislative process to allow local governments bonding approval with 55% vote, which would provide some local revenue and relief. He also is working to convert the current “tax credit” into a “tax deduction;” this change would result in long-term increased state revenues.

The legislature is faced now with “opportunity” of a surplus and the issue is: What to do with it. He does not support using surplus just for pay down of the State’s debt. He also would support two-year budget process, but not likely to see change happening this session. As the chair of the Committee on Judiciary, he would like funds restored to judiciary system, which is having to close down many courts in rural areas without access to justice system (he noted that these courts are civil courts, since criminal courts have set-aside funding and are not affected).

He would like to move to a two year budget, but does not see that happening in the current session. Due to term limits, the Legislature tends to have “Band-Aid” solutions opposed to long term structural changes.

**2. Election Reform/Money in Politics:** *There was an unprecedented amount of money spent in this election in California. What measures would you support to address the problem of money in politics? What improvements are needed to disclosure rules in California?*

In the last session, he sponsored AJR 22 that was passed by both the Assembly and Senate (resolutions don’t go to the Governor) to urge Congress to overturn the Citizens United ruling by the Supreme Court. In the current session, he is authoring AB 644, sponsored by Common Cause, which is a voter-instruction ballot measure that will come before the California voters in 2014 if approved by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. If passed by the voters, it would instruct California’s Congressional members to author a Constitutional Amendment to overturn Citizens United and instruct state legislators to ratify it. Similar measures were approved by Montana and Colorado in 2012.

There are two bills in Senate, SB2 and SB3, to increase disclosure requirements for any donation of \$100,000 and more, which he strongly supports.

**3. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) – OPTIONAL QUESTION:** *During the last legislative session, efforts were made to change the California Environmental Quality Act. In particular, an end-of-session attempt at a significant rewrite of CEQA was attempted but was not successful. What is your view of CEQA? What changes do you think it needs, if any?*

The changes that he sees possible are in reforming the process “closing off causes of action” would be the best way to avoid law suits since projects that trigger suits already do comply with issues like air quality, land use, etc.

Santa Clara County has typically not met with as much resistance regarding density as Fremont. The use of large amounts of redevelopment money allowed SC to build large projects using large developers. Small developers who try to use TOD in Fremont meet with public resistance so they back off and the development does not happen. The climate for density is different in a more urban setting. Fremont lags.

Currently, no “good guy” wants to put forward a bill to change CEQA rules or change the process. California was a pioneer in environmental protection, and CEQA is an important document. It needs to be updated, with public hearings and thoughtful study, but there seems to be no impetus in the Assembly for taking that on this year. There is always the possibility of a last-minute bill, like last year, but then the rushed timing would preclude a thorough review.

No one has looked at all the acts involved in the document. A thorough study would include all the component parts.

Too often CEQA is used as the basis of a lawsuit to delay or stop development. There should be a way that developers, especially those of smaller projects like infills, can be protected against such delays if they have complied with all the acts in CEQA.

#### **4. Local League Question(s) about issue(s) of particular local concern**

A. Comments: It is difficult to legislate for the entire district as it is urban and rural, has pockets of poverty, is ethnically diverse and huge. The interests of public schools and large industries affect land use decisions, and lack of his public recognition is apparent. Meeting with the San Jose/Santa Clara LWV will be a way to meet constituents.

B. League introduced an article sparked by a Joint Venture Silicon Valley conference about combining services and government in the 9 Bay Area counties that the Assemblyman took with interest.

C. Assemblyman W. is on the Health Committee, and he firmly supports universal health coverage with a single payer. Since the ACA will not cover all children until 2018, he supports providing care for children when they enter school, even if it is done with a mobile van. He was not specific about how this would become a law.

D. He supports adding the subject of Financial Literacy to the CA common core requirements,

and would like to the LWV to support the Student Bill of Rights and will send us information about the proposal.

E. CA has some of the best gun control legislation in the nation, but he will work to make the public safer and has already signed on to several bills and will support John Perez’s legislative committee to examine the issue.

#### **5. What other major issues do you think the Legislature must deal with in 2013? What are your personal priorities?**

On Affordable Health Care: There will still be 3-4 million people not covered, and 70% of them are children; partly due to undocumented parents. He feels this issue needs to be tied to school entry and if solution can be worked out with Homeland Security and Immigration to get around this issue, at county-level and local level, we could find way to provide health care to parents and these children.

Other concerns: he is working on legislation affecting garnishment of wages. Right now, high medical bills is one of leading causes of a person falling into debt, and garnishing wages only worsens situation for working poor. He would like to waive garnishment of wages if individual is 70% of federal poverty level.

He noted that he is carrying a legislative package of bills called the Student Bill of Rights. It is designed to make sure that education remains a pathway out of poverty, not into it. It calls for

- financial literacy education in K-12 (AB 391);
- private student loan entrance and exit counseling modeled off of the federal loan counseling so students “Know Before They Owe” (AB 534);
- preventing the garnishment of wages for all non-federal student loans to protect students from having up to 25 percent of their paychecks taken (AB 233); and
- Assembly Joint Resolution 11, urging Congress to make private student loan debt dischargeable in bankruptcy.

March 21, 2013

To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

From: Elisabeth MacNamara, President

Re: Reducing Gun Violence

On behalf of our 140,000 members and supporters, as well as the millions of Americans at risk every day, the League of Women Voters strongly urges you to pass common sense solutions to the gun violence that is plaguing our nation.

It is time for congress to adopt legislation that will close the gun show loophole, increase penalties for straw purchases of guns, ban assault weapons, place limits on high capacity ammunition magazine size, and fund research and reporting on gun violence in America. Curbing gun violence is a critical matter of public safety, public health, and public confidence.

Along with the majority of American citizens, the League supports closing the gun show loophole and providing for universal background checks. Currently, background checks are not required for the 40 percent of gun sales that take place at gun shows, person-to-person sales or other private transactions. A recent Quinnipiac poll found that 92 percent of voters, including 91 percent of gun owners, support background checks on all gun purchasers. In addition, Congress should pass legislation to increase the penalties for straw purchases in which individuals who do not have criminal records buy guns and pass them on to individuals who are not eligible to purchase a firearm, including felons and domestic abusers.

The League also believes that the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress should pass legislation to ban all military-style semi-automatic assault weapons along with high capacity ammunition magazines. The Quinnipiac poll found that 56 percent of registered voters nationwide support a ban on the sale of assault weapons. Placing limits on magazine size is a common sense solution to shootings that kill many people at once. This limit should include magazines and other ammunition feeding devices that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. These devices allow shooters to fire numerous rounds in rapid succession without having to stop and reload, and they have been a central part in the mass killings of recent years.

Throughout the country, local and state League have been holding meetings with their fellow citizens to discuss the crisis of gun violence. They have testified before state legislatures and met with their neighbors in community meetings to come together, air their differences and work to find common ground and solve some of the difficult problems presented in the gun debate, including mental health issues and the problem of domestic violence. Congress should follow suit and start to act on common sense solutions to curb gun violence.

April 15	Education Committee	7 P.M., Miriam Keller's house
April 18	Action Committee	12 noon at Kay's house
April 22	Dealing with Realignment – Susan Muranishi, Alameda Co. Administrator	6:30 P.M. Silliman Center, 6800 Mowry Ave, Newark
April 23	Board Meeting	6:45 P.M. League Office
May 4	LWVBA Council	10-12, Woodside Independence Hall, 2955 Woodside Rd, Woodside
May 6	Education Committee	7 P.M., Miriam Keller's house
May 16	Smart Voter pre-convention workshop	Convention Headquarters, San Jose
May 17-19	LWVC Convention	Dulce Hayes Mansion, San Jose
June 9	LWVFNUC Annual Meeting	Acacia Creek – Masonic, Union City

ALL MEETINGS ARE FREE, OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND WHEEL CHAIR ACCESSIBLE

### Mission

The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages the informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

### Diversity Policy

LWVFNUC affirms its commitment to reflect the diversity of our communities in our membership and actions. We believe diverse views are important for responsible decision making and seek to work with all people and groups who reflect our community diversity.

## Join the LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS today!

Any person, man or woman, who subscribes to the purpose and policy of the League may join. To be a voting member, one must be at least 18 years of age and a U.S. citizen. Members under 18, or non-citizens, are welcome as non-voting Associate Members. Dues include membership in LWVFNUC, Bay Area League, and the California and National Leagues. Financial support for dues is available through our scholarship program. Contact Andrea Schacter, Membership Chair, for information.

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

New Member       Renewal

Transfer from \_\_\_\_\_

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LWVFNUC and mail it with this  
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Individual Membership—\$60

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