



Save The Date!  
 Sat. March 23, 10 A.M.  
 Field trip to Oakland's Mt. View  
 cemetery for a historical guided tour  
 of resting places of outstanding  
 California women

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**APRIL 29<sup>th</sup> MEETING**

**DEALING WITH REALIGNMENT**

**SPEAKER: SUSAN MURANISHI,**  
 Alameda County Administrator

WHAT DOES REALIGNMENT MEAN  
 FOR ALAMEDA COUNTY? FOR CITIES  
 WITHIN THE COUNTY?

WHAT SERVICES ARE AFFECTED?

DOES AN IMPROVING ECONOMY HELP  
 WITH REALIGNMENT? HOW?

Viewing of Film  
**"The United States of Alec"**

MONDAY, MARCH 18, 2013  
 6:45 Meet & Greet  
 7:00 PM Program

Fremont Congregational Church  
 38255 Blacow Rd.  
 Fremont

This film was a special report by Bill Moyers  
 originally seen in Sept. 2012.

ALEC, the American Legislative Exchange  
 Council, helps corporate America draft and  
 propose "model bills" across the country.

ALEC says it is a "non-partisan public-  
 private partnership." It has promoted "stand  
 your ground laws", voter I.D. laws and other  
 controversial legislation.

View this film and decide for yourself.  
 Is this really a "non-partisan" organization?  
 Are there inherent dangers in a collaboration  
 in a public-private partnership like this?

*In This Issue*

- p3.....LWVC convention information
- p4.....Information on ALEC
- p5.....Plan Bay Area Draft

## President's Message



. March is Women's History Month and contains Sunshine Week.

For Women's History Month we have scheduled a tour of prominent women activists buried in a cemetery in Piedmont. We're going to show that we know how to conserve by making our way there by BART and bus. Join us for what may be a very lively exercise.

We are also going to remind all our Councils and Boards in the Tri-Cities that they are representatives of the people and should do the people's business in front of the people. Most of our Councils and Boards do that. We will show them our approval. An occasional Board leaves much to be desired and that must be noted. The second week of March is Sunshine Week and we will encourage our elected officials to let the sun shine in.

We will also show a documentary about "ALEC". ALEC is the American Legislative Exchange Council. Corporations and businesses help state legislators write bills that are very advantageous to the businesses. Legislators then try to pass the bills. The "Stand Your Ground" law that we heard so much about in Florida was one such bill. ALEC needs some sunshine. We will do that at our March meeting.

Our Initiative and Referendum Consensus meeting in February did have some consensus. We finished all the questions in the time allotted. And had a delicious lunch. We only failed to reach consensus on questions 8(b) and 9. 8(b) was should there be a higher standard than a simple majority at a single election needed to pass an initiative constitutional amendment. Question 9 stated that currently if two or more conflicting measures on the same ballot all pass, the measure receiving the greatest number of votes is enacted. In such a case, should the provisions of all measures receiving fewer votes be allowed to be enacted insofar as they do not conflict with the measure receiving the most votes? It was a fun, exasperating, invigorating day.

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Published 10 times a year by the League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark, and Union City (LWVFNUC)

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[www.lwvfnuc.org](http://www.lwvfnuc.org)

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## FROM LWVC

### myLeague: Leading The Charge for Change

**WHAT:** The 64th State Convention of the League of Women Voters of California

**WHEN:** 10 am, Friday, May 17, through 3 pm, Sunday, May 19, 2013 With special pre-convention events on Thursday, May 16, 2013

**WHERE:** Dolce Hayes Mansion, 200 Edenvale Ave, San Jose 95136 | 408-226-3200

**WHO:** Attendance at convention is open to all. We encourage members to attend and invite the public to come learn about the League. We ask you to invite your friends and contacts. This is the first call to Convention 2013 as required by the LWVC bylaws that govern the composition and business of the convention. Our bylaws direct us to:

- **Elect** officers, directors, and three members of the nominating committee for the 2013-2015 biennium

- Adopt a **budget** for the 2013-2014 fiscal year
- Adopt **program** for 2013-2015
- Adopt amendments to the **bylaws** as needed

### myLeague: Leading the Charge for Change!

The purpose of the convention is to be inspired and empowered to increase active and informed participation in civic life. Come meet passionate people from across the state who are making democracy work! Read more about speakers, workshops, special activities on our blog <http://lwvc.wordpress.com>

### Check out your options!

The range of activities can suit any schedule or budget, from investing in a full three day registration for \$375 or treating yourself to a special pre-convention \$40 workshop. Early bird registration starts **February 19**. The hotel's special room rate of \$119 per night is good thru **April 15**. There is a special link on the blog or you can call the hotel and ask.

### VOTING DELEGATES

Attending as a voting delegate is an exciting honor and a responsibility. If you are interested in attending as a voting delegate, speak with your local League board immediately.

Voting delegates to the convention are detailed in Article X, Sections 2 and 4:

- Each local League and ILO is entitled to send its **president, or an alternate** in the event the president is unable to attend. The president of a member-at-large unit may attend as a nonvoting member.

- In addition, each local League is entitled to **delegates in proportion to its membership numbers** as reported in the LWVUS database on January 31, 2013. Member-at-large unit members may attend as nonvoting members.

LWVFNUC is entitled to 3 delegates in addition to our President. Let Miriam Keller know if you are interested in attending as a delegate.

### Exciting Convention Speaker News

Ann Ravel, Chair of the Fair Political Practices Commission, is leading the push for strengthening financial disclosure requirements for all candidates. She plans next year to greatly expand the commission's website, providing financial disclosure statements online for all elected officials, statewide

Chris Hoene, Executive Director of the California Budget Project, is an expert in public finance and the long term implications of Prop 13 on state and local finance. He previously worked for the National League of Cities.

Kim Klein, back by popular demand after her appearance at Council 2011, is an widely known fundraiser trainer. She adapats traditional fundraising techniques and works with small organizations working for social justice.

# ALEC – American Legislative Exchange Council

Excerpt from information provided by LWV Concord-Carlisle\*Amhearst\*Sudbury

## What is it? Where did it come from?

A self described membership organization of “non-partisan, individual public-private membership association of state legislators”. The stated goal is to bring public and private leaders together to “conduct a policy making program that unites members of the public and private sectors in a dynamic partnership to support research, policy development, and dissemination activities.” Founded in 1972 by a conservative activist, it now has an estimated 2,000 state legislators and corporate members. It currently has a charitable tax status that allows it to bypass lobbying disclosure requirements and frees corporate members to claim payments to ALEC as ‘charitable, thereby avoiding taxes that might apply to lobbying expenditures.

Dues for state legislators is \$50 while corporate dues range from \$7,000-\$25,000. Corporate members spend even more to support ALEC legislative task force teams. They also receive money from foundations and other groups that support legislation sought after by ALEC.

One of the topics that ALEC supports is the large number of Voter ID laws that were generated after the 2010 elections. Most people see these attempts as limiting the electorate instead of keeping the doors open to all who are qualified to vote. Leaked documents from ALEC paint a picture of an organization dedicated to passing legislation that supports advancing corporate profits. ALEC legislation also addresses federal and state environmental and financial legislation, health care reform, state minimum wage laws and public employee unions.

## Pop Quiz on Presidents

1. Which college has the most U.S. presidents as alumni? Name the presidents.
2. One president founded a college. Name the president and the college.
3. Which presidents never graduated from college?
4. Who is the only president to earn a Ph.D?
5. Which presidents were schoolteachers?
6. Which presidents were university presidents? Name them and the universities.
7. Which president had only six months of education and married his teacher?

Answers:

1. Harvard: John Adams, John Quincy Adams, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Rutherford B. Hayes (Harvard Law School), John F. Kennedy, George W. Bush (Harvard Business School), Barack Obama (Harvard Law School).
2. Thomas Jefferson found the Univ. of Virginia in 1819.
3. George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Martin Van Buren, Zachary Taylor, Millard Fillmore, Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, Harry S. Truman.
4. Woodrow Wilson.
5. John Adams (briefly), Millard Fillmore, James Garfield, Chester A. Arthur, Grover Cleveland, William McKinley, Lyndon B. Johnson.
6. Thomas Jefferson, IVA; James Madison, UVA; James Garfield, Hiram College; Millard Fillmore, Univ. of Buffalo; Woodrow Wilson, Princeton Univ.; Dwight D. Eisenhower, Columbia Univ.
7. Millard Fillmore

## From the Bay Area Monitor

### Agencies Set to Engage Public on Forthcoming Plan Bay Area Draft

By Leslie Stewart

There are no engraved invitations, but organizers are hoping for a large turnout for this spring's big engagement events — namely, public comment opportunities following the release of the draft Plan Bay Area in March. Plan Bay Area, the region's most comprehensive transportation and land use plan ever, is being developed by the Association of Bay Area Governments and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission in partnership with two other regional agencies, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the Bay Conservation and Development Commission. Open houses — both real-time and virtual — plus formal hearings, focus groups, and a telephone poll are on the calendar for this spring as the regional agencies take the next steps toward adoption of the final plan in June 2013. The agencies have been partnering on this plan for almost three years. The process has already included intensive efforts to bring in stakeholders and members of the public to discuss policies and directions. According to Ellen Griffin, manager of public information at MTC, the input was often very valuable. "For example, lots of people were interested in performance measures for the plan. Based on comments, we included benchmarks for health and safety in addition to other more traditional transportation and air quality metrics." The upcoming sessions will be different. "The visioning process was more about values and concepts, broader ideas of what people wanted their communities to look like," Griffin explained. "This time around we are seeking very specific comments focused on the draft plan."

Agency staffers are working to make the process for commenting on the draft plan as easy and comfortable as possible while complying with required formal hearings. For those who want to chime in online, the OneBayArea website ([www.onebayarea.org](http://www.onebayarea.org)) that serves as the plan's Internet home has been

revised and will include a new "Bay Area Town Hall" section for users to read and comment on the plan. A telephone poll will also be used to reach out to members of the public with questions about key issues and proposals in the plan.

To increase involvement of Bay Area residents who are in low-income communities or communities of color, MTC has partnered with community groups to conduct focus groups. Translations for people who aren't proficient in English and materials developed for various groups will make it easier for them to learn about and comment on the plan with other members of their communities. Griffin described this as "bringing the meeting to them."

The state law mandating the plan, Senate Bill 375, requires briefings with local elected officials in every county, and MTC and ABAG will coordinate with county congestion management agencies, which include elected officials from cities and from county boards of supervisors, to place the draft plan on their agendas for discussion and comment.

For the general public, there will also be a series of two-part events, one in each of the nine Bay Area counties. Each will begin with an open house with exhibits and plenty of opportunity to review the draft plan and ask questions.

Displays will cover sections of the draft plan; for some topics, such as air quality, they will show how the draft plan is expected to perform in relation to targets that were set at the beginning of the process. This will be coupled with a "comment station" for those who do not have the time or desire to speak at the public hearing but still wish to offer comments. Forms for submitting handwritten comments will also be available as well.

The open houses will begin in the early evening, followed by a formal public hearing the same evening. This will allow people to first learn more about the plan before speaking at the public hearing, or to leave their comments and go on to another evening activity.

All comments — whether from the website, open houses, or public hearings — will be incorporated into the formal record of public comments. Elected officials serving on both

MTC and ABAG have requested a timely response to questions from the public hearings. In addition to recording comments and answers, Griffin said, “We will put the common themes and key messages that we’ve heard during the process before agency board members as they make their final decisions on Plan Bay Area.” Three additional hearings will be held around the region on the draft Environmental Impact Report. These hearings will be focused on the environmental impacts of the plan, not the draft plan itself.

As in previous public outreach efforts, the challenge will be to obtain truly representative feedback from the widely diverse Bay Area communities, including members of the public who may not otherwise be involved in planning decisions. Those who will be responsible for implementing the final plan — cities, counties and congestion management agencies, and regional agencies — need to be confident that Bay Area residents have had the opportunity to provide meaningful input into the plan and that the final product reflects the values and priorities of the region’s residents.

### **From the Bay Area Monitor – an excerpt Help Preserve One of Our Most Precious Resources**

By Gail Schickele

*Note: This article supplements this year’s Bay Area League Day, “Water: California’s Gold 2013,” hosted February 2 by the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area. For more information from the event, visit [www.lwvbayarea.org](http://www.lwvbayarea.org).*

Water conservation may be the single most important action that everyone can take to preserve one of our most precious resources. The key to sustainable water supply, water quality, and water security is directly tied to the efforts of individuals (as well as companies and other organizations). To begin doing your part, establish a baseline of your current water usage by checking your water records over a year’s period, either from the past year or starting today. From this baseline, make a pledge to reduce your consumption by 20 percent, or as much as you’re able, and try to decrease usage over time.

But what exactly can you do to use less water? The Association of California Water Agencies will tell you.

### **How to Reach Your Congressman**

Congressman Mike Honda has office hours at Fremont Main 2400 Stevenson Blvd for Fremont constituents on the first, second and third Fridays from 11-2. Newark constituents will be able to meet with the Congressman from 10-2 on the fourth Friday at 6300 Civic Center Terrace in Newark.

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Congressman Eric Swalwell  
5075 Hopyard Road, Suite 220  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
Phone: 925-460-5100  
Hours: M-F 9-5:00 PM

This coalition of 450 California water agencies adopted “Save Our Water,” a program to educate the public about acute challenges facing our supply and delivery system. Launched in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources in 2009, this conservation campaign is online at [www.saveourh2o.org](http://www.saveourh2o.org), which features water-saving advice. Here in the Bay Area, one ACWA member has been promoting the same conservation message. The East Bay Municipal Utility District provides drinking water for 1.3 million customers in Alameda and Contra Costa counties, and engages in sustainable practices that “avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to the environment and the public.”

EBMUD posts water saving tips at [www.ebmud.com/environment/conservation-and-recycling/watersmart-center](http://www.ebmud.com/environment/conservation-and-recycling/watersmart-center). Here you can learn to outfit your home with water-efficient faucets, dishwashers, clothes washers, toilets, and showers, as well as find out how to save water in the yard. There are also links to partnering and water efficiency organizations, as well as water-saving technologies, publications, and information on events and workshops.



## League of Women Voters—Eden Area

### JOIN US FOR A LUNCHEON FORUM

**Friday, March 22 from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m.**

**San Lorenzo Village Homes Association  
377 Paseo Grande, San Lorenzo**

### **LONG RANGE IMPLICATIONS OF PROP 30 ON EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICE PROGRAMS**

**Speaker: Honorable John Chiang, State Controller**

The Controller is the Chief Fiscal Officer of California, the ninth-largest economy in the world. The Controller makes sure the State's \$100 billion budget is spent properly, helps administer two of the nation's largest public pension funds, and serves on 81 State boards and commission. These are charged with everything from protecting our coastline to overseeing crime victim compensation.



**11:30**            **Registration and lunch**  
**12:15**            **Speaker Hon John Chiang**  
**1:00 p.m.**        **Q & A**

**Cost:** Lunch \$10 paid by March 18, 2013, \$15 at door.  
**Program without lunch, Free.**

**RSVP to:** [LWVEA@aol.com](mailto:LWVEA@aol.com) or call **Suzanne Barba 510-538-9678**

**Send check to:** LWVEA, P.O. Box 2234, Castro Valley, CA 94546

Include your name, phone, and email.

March 4	Education Committee	7:00 P.M. Miriam Keller's house
March 6	Great Decisions	7:30 PM Call Anne MacLeod for location
March 21	Action Committee – brown bag lunch	12 Noon at Kay's house
March 22	LWVEA lunch – speaker State Comptroller John Chiang	11:30 lunch (\$10) – come after for speech only . San Lornzo Village Homes, 377 Paseo Grande
March 23	Field trip to Oakland's Mt. View cemetery – historical tour of famous CA women	Call Sets Amann. Plan on car pooling.

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

## SAVE THE DATE! LWV CALIFORNIA CONVENTION MAY 17-19 SAN JOSE, CA

*Do you have an idea for either a state or local study?  
If yes, contact a board member with your thoughts.*

### 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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*Please make your check payable to:  
LWVFNUC and mail it with this  
form to:*

LWVFNUC-MEMBERSHIP  
 P. O. Box 3218  
 Fremont, CA 94539

Individual Membership—\$60  
 Household Membership—\$90  
 Donation to LWVFNUC

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to Ed. Fund (*Make  
 separate check payable to  
 LWVFNUC Ed Fund*)

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_