



It is your turn as a League supporter to see how our creative youth apply social media techniques to the phrase

Occupy the Voting Booth.

The Fremont Library is co-sponsoring the awards ceremony. Using criteria like relevance to the topic, message clarity, originality, impact and presentation quality, the judges will announce the winners at the May 21st ceremony. The contestants are charged with creating a persuasive argument that motivates young adults to REGISTER, BE INFORMED AND VOTE. See page three for complete list of sponsors.

All members are encouraged to come and applaud our high school student winners

May 21, 2012

**Awards Presentation for
*Y VOTE CONTEST***

**Fremont Main Library
 2400 Stevenson Blvd
 7:00 P.M.**

First Place \$1,000

Second Place \$ 500

Third Place \$ 300

Fourth Place \$ 200

**Plus many
 Judges Awards of Merit**

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President's Message



We have two candidate forums scheduled for the June election. On Monday, April 30th at 7 P.M. New Haven's Measure H will be explained. Following that presentation at 7:30 P.M.

a forum for the 20th Assembly District candidates will be held. Both of these will be held at the Union City Council Chambers, 34009 Alvarado Niles Road. The second forum will be on Thursday, May 3rd, for the 25th Assembly District candidates. That candidate forum will be held at Fremont Unified School district Board room, 4210 Technology Drive, at 7:30 P.M. We will need people to help as question sorters, timekeepers and ushers. Plan to help if you possibly can. (Email or call Marilyn Singer). If you can't help, be sure you come. There's nothing like seeing and hearing the candidates in person. And if neither of these is a possibility, click on our website shortly after the forums to view the candidates and listen to their answers to community questions.

The League has also started a Facebook page. Check it out and "like" us. Ask all your friends to do the same.

We are running a Y VOTE contest for high school age students in Fremont. There will be an awards ceremony on May 21st at Fremont Main Library at 7 P.M. Come and support our talented students as they receive cash prizes donated by our co-sponsors.

The Call to Annual Meeting is either attached to the May Vote or coming separately. Notice the membership renewal contest. If we receive your dues for next year before the start of the Annual Meeting, we will put your name in a box. One name will be pulled out. That person will be given a year's free membership (2013-2014).

At the last Board meeting the Board:

- Voted to begin a dues contest
- Authorized \$150 donation to Fremont Congregational Church to "pay" for 3 uses of their room
- Sent \$400 donation to Smart Voter

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-12

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The *League of Women Voters** and the Fremont Main Library
present a multimedia contest for Tri-City high school students

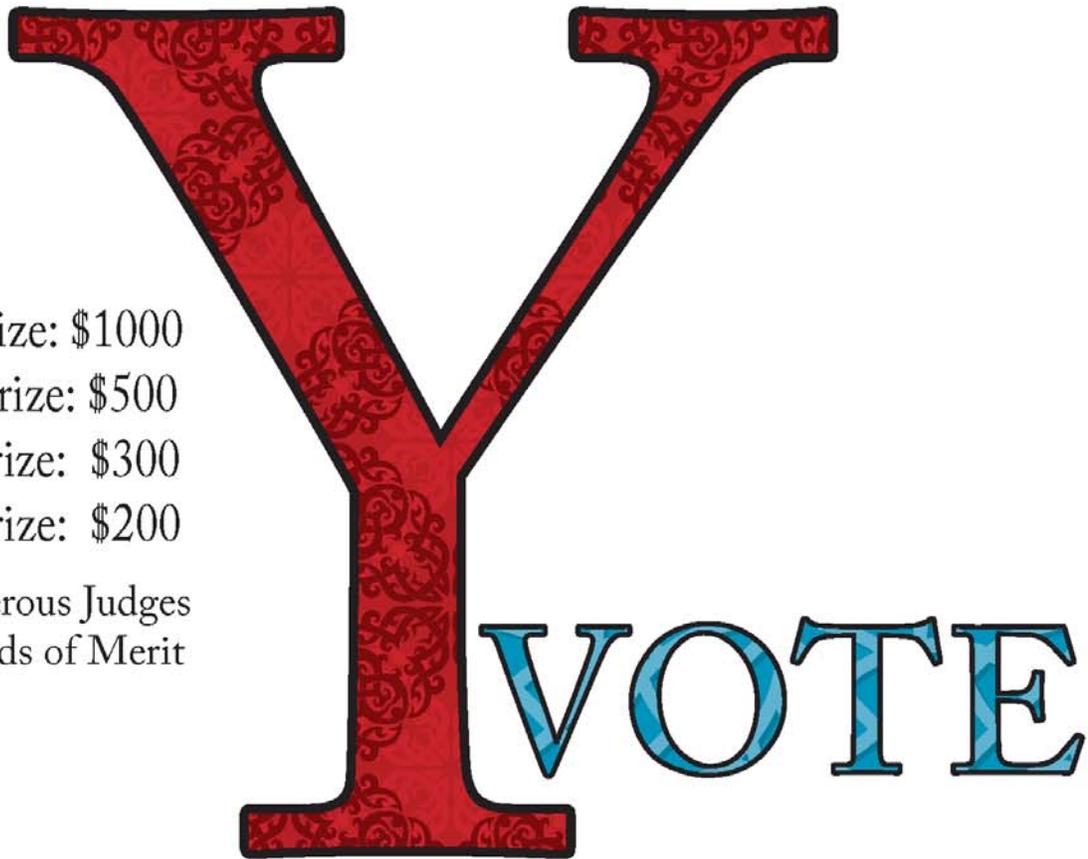
1st Prize: \$1000

2nd Prize: \$500

3rd Prize: \$300

4th Prize: \$200

Numerous Judges
Awards of Merit



CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

HELPING DEMOCRACY WORK - \$1000

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*The League of Women Voters of Fremont, Newark and Union City is a nonpartisan organization and can be reached at 510-794-5783.

BAY AREA LEAGUE DAY

Bay Area League Day Tackles Housing

By Alec MacDonald

A politically engaged crowd gathered in Oakland on February 4 to indulge their wonkish curiosity at “Housing and the Bay Area’s Future,” this year’s iteration of the League of Women Voters of the Bay Area’s annual educational forum. They heard an earful of worrisome information on the topic, but also learned about some useful approaches that may help shape tomorrow’s Bay Area housing landscape for the better.

Keynote speaker David Rosen opened the event on a grim note, remarking, “I think it’s important to recognize the hole that we’re in.” The principal of the consulting firm David Paul Rosen & Associates described how that hole was created: a sweeping mortgage crisis, an extended recession, enduring unemployment, gaping state and federal budget deficits, and the recent demise of California’s redevelopment agencies. These conditions have hindered the construction of housing, which, given the state’s anticipated growth over the coming decades, stands as a major problem going forward. According to Rosen, a projected population increase of 21 million people by 2050 will necessitate production of 175,000 new housing units annually over the next four decades — a tall order, considering the last two decades have seen an annual average of 100,000.

Filling this order will require not only paying for all those units, but also figuring out where to put them. These dilemmas received the attention of a pair of panel discussions following Rosen’s talk.

The first panel discussion considered the placement question. Miriam Chion began by addressing how housing logistics get parsed at the regional level. The principal planner for the Association of Bay Area Governments said her agency crafts broad-based policies for accommodating local housing need, commenting that “our job is to provide a framework.” A mix of targets and incentives, this framework includes the Regional Housing Needs Allocation, the designation of Priority Development Areas and Priority Conservation

Areas, the Sustainable Communities Strategy, and the OneBayArea Grant program. In scope and complexity, the whole bundle can feel imposing, prompting Chion to emphasize that none of these regional planning mechanisms are intended to usurp local land use control.

Her fellow panelist Duane Bay recounted his own experience applying such mechanisms at the local level. As current director of San Mateo County’s housing department and a former mayor of East Palo Alto, he was able to shed light on how jurisdictions react to housing element assignments handed down from on high. In short, local leaders don’t always appreciate being told how many units they ought to make available. But Bay did offer an optimistic take on the possibility for harmonious vertical collaboration, citing San Mateo County’s gradual progress in sorting out its housing planning process among its 21 jurisdictions. However, he also lamented the fact that every year the county’s cost of living causes 6,000 residents to move away, while an influx of 6,000 wealthier outsiders offsets their departure.

Sharing Bay’s concern about this kind of displacement, panelist Sam Tepperman–Gelfant noted, “If you’re an upper income worker... you can afford to live wherever your job might be, but for most of the Bay Area’s lower income workers, they don’t have that choice.” The staff attorney at Public Advocates said his organization has sought to reconcile this disparity by leveraging the regional agencies’ planning mechanisms. Focusing on the Sustainable Communities Strategy in particular, the San Francisco-based nonprofit has advanced a coalition-driven “Six Big Wins for Social Equity” campaign to help underserved populations procure greater community investment, additional affordable housing, enhanced transit service, better protection for health and safety, more job opportunities, and a stronger voice in policy decisions.

To start the second panel discussion on housing finance, real estate lawyer Jack Nagle echoed the somber tone of Rosen’s keynote by observing, “The presentation I’ve been asked to

(Continued on Page 5)

give this morning could not be more topical and timely — nor could it be more depressing.” Only three days prior, the largest source of state funding for affordable housing disappeared when California’s 400 redevelopment agencies closed for business. Nagle recapped the history of political wrangling that eventually made the agencies a casualty of ongoing state budget troubles, and he indicated that their dissolution has sent those in the affordable housing sector scrambling for economic alternatives.

The two other panelists who joined him acknowledged that, as affordable housing developers, covering their costs just got a lot more challenging. Susan Friedland, executive director of Affordable Housing Associates in Berkeley, explained that redevelopment agencies had generally paid for a quarter of project expenses, with state bond measures, federal tax credits, and loans fulfilling the rest of the balance. “It’s a really amazing mix of public and private money,” she said about the pasting together of these pieces. “It’s very complicated, and all of it needs to be in place.”

Now that a piece has vanished, how will affordable housing developers compensate? Friedland’s colleague Linda Mandolini, who heads Eden Housing in Hayward, predicted that organizations like theirs will more aggressively pursue such options as local inclusionary ordinances, commercial linkage fees, and energy efficiency initiatives. While these and other innovative solutions hold promise, all of the panelists agreed that the outlook has decidedly worsened.

Who will suffer the most from this situation? The working class, the unemployed, and folks down on their luck — anyone facing severe limits on where they can live due to high rents and mortgages. A third and final panel for the day took inventory of what can be done for them.

Starting with the fundamental step of putting a roof over people’s heads, EveryOne Home Executive Director Elaine de Coligny spoke about her organization’s goal to end homelessness in Alameda County by the year 2020. She laid out five strategies for achieving this goal: preventing people from falling into homelessness, creating 15,000 housing

opportunities, delivering support services to residents, measuring the outcomes of program actions, and cultivating leadership to rally communities around this issue.

Not that all communities want to be rallied — often, cities don’t feel like rolling out the welcome mat for less affluent newcomers. Panelist Tim Iglesias, a professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law, shared methods for dealing with such resistance. He pointed out that affordable housing campaigns must target local government authorities, because they have the final say on whether a project gets approved for construction. Advocates should appeal to neighbors as well, but Iglesias cautioned that not everyone can be convinced to embrace changes to their surroundings.

The actual changes in question, however, aren’t especially radical, according to panelist Mary Murtagh. The executive director of EAH Housing offered a thoroughly nonthreatening profile of people who seek cheaper accommodations in properties such as those her nonprofit manages throughout California and in Hawaii. She portrayed them as diligent, conscientious, and family-oriented individuals employed in low-paying yet indispensable positions like nursing assistants, preschool teachers, and auto mechanics. Echoing a message uttered by all the speakers who preceded her that day, Murtagh concluded her remarks by calling for the audience’s help in confronting the state’s housing challenges. “There’s going to be so many opportunities for informed and active people who are interested in government working right to be involved,” she said.

<p>Save the Date Annual Meeting Saturday, June 2nd Sweet Tomatoes Restaurant 39370 Paseo Padre Parkway, Fremont 8:30 A.M. Breakfast and Guest Speaker Sen. Ellen Corbett 9:30 Meeting Special Silent Auction during breakfast</p>
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Top Two Primary FAQ's The Rules Have Changed

What has changed about California's primary system?

In June 2010, voters approved the Top Two Primary system for what were formerly called "partisan" statewide offices. With the Top Two Primary, all candidates running for one of these offices are listed on one ballot, regardless of their party preference, and all voters will see the same list of candidates, regardless their own party registration. The top two vote-getters for each office will go on to the general election, regardless their party preference.

How are winners in the Top Two Primary chosen for the general election?

The two candidates who receive the most votes qualify for the general election, hence the name "Top Two."

What if one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, can a winner of the election be declared in June?

It does not matter if one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast: the top two vote getters always advance to the general election. Only candidates running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction or candidates for voternominated offices in special elections can win outright by getting a majority of the vote in the primary election.

Will the two candidates that advance to the general election be from two different parties?

Not necessarily. The candidates are not appearing on the ballot representing a party; they are only representing themselves. In a Top Two Primary, the purpose is simply to reduce the number of all candidates down to two, not to select each party's nominee. The party preference information on the ballot for each candidate is for informational purposes only. It is possible that two candidates from the same party will go to the general election, if they are the top two votegetters.

If only one or two candidates are running for a Top Two office, will there still be a primary election for that office?

Yes, in June there is still a primary even if only one or two file for candidacy. The top two vote-getters move on to the general election regardless of candidate pool size, party preference, or whether one candidate receives the majority of all

votes cast in the primary election.

What offices are affected?

The Top Two Primary applies to most of the offices that were previously known as "partisan" and are now known as "voter-nominated" offices. In California these offices include:

- United States Senators
- Congressional Representatives
- State Senators
- Assembly members
- Governor
- Lt. Governor
- State Treasurer
- Secretary of State
- State Attorney General.

The Top Two Primary does not apply to elections for:

- President and Vice President, or
- Political Party County Central Committees or County Councils

These offices are called "party nominated" offices.

How are presidential elections conducted in California?

Qualified political parties in California may hold presidential primaries in one of two ways:

Closed presidential primary – only voters indicating a preference for a party may vote for that party's presidential nominee.

Modified-closed presidential primary – the party may also allow voters who did not state a party preference when they registered, to vote for that party's presidential nominee.

For the June 5, 2012 Presidential Primary the Democratic and American Independent parties notified the Secretary of State that they will allow no party preference voters (formerly called declined-to-state voters) to vote for their party's nominees.

Which candidates can run for Top Two ("voter-nominated") offices in the general election?

Candidates running for a voter-nominated office cannot run in the general election unless they are one of the top two vote getters in the June primary election.

Can write-in candidates run for office in the Top Two primary?

Yes, write-in candidates for voter-nominated offices can still run in the primary election.

However, a write-in candidate can only advance to

the general election if the candidate is one of the top two vote-getters in the primary.

Can write-in candidates for voter-nominated offices run in the general election?

No, because a write-in candidate on the November ballot would not have been one of the top-two voter getters in the primary.

What ballot will I receive in June if I registered with a political party?

If you registered to vote with one of these qualified political parties: American Independent, Democratic, Green, Libertarian, Peace and Freedom, or Republican, you will receive a ballot for that party with any candidates running for that party's nomination for President and any

candidates running for the local central committee. Election law does not allow a voter registered with a political party to vote a different party's ballot for President or Central Committee.

What ballot will I receive in June if I did not select a party when I registered to vote?

If you did not select a qualified political party when you registered to vote, only the Democratic and American Independent parties will allow you to request their party's ballot. You may not request more than one party's ballot, however. If you do not request a ballot of one of the above parties, you will be given a ballot that does not contain the contest for U.S. President.

FREE MEMBERSHIP OFFER

Here's an offer that is a win/win for everyone!

This year we want to encourage everyone to renew early. Doing so will save our hard-working membership team and Treasurer an enormous amount of time and energy. Therefore, we are offering a major incentive. Each person who renews prior to the beginning of our annual meeting in June will be entered into a drawing for a FREE membership renewal, which will be applied to the following fiscal year--2013/14.

Who knows, you could be the winner and save \$60 the next year. And you don't even need to

buy a raffle ticket. What a sweet deal!

Renewing early is so easy. You can renew online by going to our website, utilizing our secure server. Or you can just mail a check to our P.O. Box. Some people enjoy the hands-on approach, and prefer to write a check at the annual meeting and personally hand it to the Membership Director or the Treasurer. Any way you do it is perfectly fine. But PLEASE, renew early and help your League. And if you don't know what to do with that \$60 in savings, we can even offer a few League-like suggestions.

Thank you very much.

Members Only Website

There is a tremendous amount of information available to you on our Members Only Website. No need for you to remember the League of Women Voters California members only site address

- the link is right there on our homepage.

. It's an easy way to see what our State League is doing and has links to state level resources.

. Ever want to look up past Annual Meeting Minutes? They are right there in the LWVFNUC Information tab along with our Budget, Bylaws, and other non-public LWVFNUC information.

. If you want to see what our Board is up to just click on the Board Information tab for Board meeting agendas and approved minutes. Most importantly, here is where you can find our Board policies, including our Non-partisan policy

ensuring the League continues to be a trusted source of non-partisan information in our community.

. Action Committee keeps notes here on various activities and lastly,

. We have our Leadership Tools to help Board Members. Ever wonder what the Program V.P. does?

Go here to read the job description.

This is our "go to" site. Check it out at www.lwvfnc.org/memonly. You will be asked for a user id and password. This information is included in the membership renewal letter you will receive separately from the Voter.

Sam Neeman
Administrative V.P.

From LWVUS

The following statement by Elisabeth MacNamara, President League of Women Voters of the United States on The DISCLOSE Act of 2012, S. 2219 was read for the Senate Rules Committee on March 29, 2012.

March 29, 2012

The League of Women Voters strongly supports S. 2219, the DISCLOSE Act of 2012, which would restore transparency to U.S. elections by requiring complete disclosure of spending on big-money advertising in candidate elections.

The League of Women Voters of the United States is a nonpartisan, community-based organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Founded in 1920 as an outgrowth of the struggle to win voting rights for women, the League is organized in more than 700 communities and in every State, with more than 140,000 members and supporters across the country.

One of the League's primary goals is to promote an open governmental system that is representative, accountable, and responsive and that assures opportunities for citizen participation in government decision making. To further this goal, the League has been a leader in seeking campaign finance reform at the state, local and federal levels for more than three decades.

We are deeply concerned about the current state of political financing in our nation. Rather than focusing on the concerns of voters, too often campaigns and candidates focus heavily on raising funds. And too often, they raise those funds from sources that seek and receive special access, special consideration and special treatment once the candidate is elected to office.

There is corruption in our political system. It is the corruption of government that comes from

special interest financing of elections, and it is the corruption of democracy that comes when a few very loud voices, funded by incredible sums of money, are allowed to overwhelm and drown out other voices during elections.

But there is yet a third form of corruption – the corruption that comes when the voters are deprived of the information they need to make informed decisions about the candidates seeking their votes. Secret funding in elections is anathema in a democracy.

In its ruling in *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission*, the Supreme Court opened the floodgates for big-money special interests in our elections. Corporations and unions can now make unlimited secret expenditures seeking to elect or defeat candidates. And they can make unlimited secret contributions to other entities that seek to elect or defeat candidates. This is unacceptable in a representative system, and we hope and trust that the *Citizens United* decision will itself be overturned, limited or corrected.

Right now, however, the most important thing we can do to preserve the integrity of our electoral process is to increase transparency and let the sunlight shine in. Disclosure of corporate, union and individual spending in our elections is the key to allowing voters to make their decisions. S. 2219 accomplishes that fundamental purpose.

The DISCLOSE Act 2012 is carefully crafted to require disclosure by outside groups of large campaign contributions and expenditures – those over \$10,000 – and includes a valuable “stand-by-your ad” provision for ads run by such groups. It requires outside groups to certify that their spending is not coordinated with candidates and, very importantly, covers transfers of money among groups so that the actual sources of funds being spent to influence federal elections will be known.

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S. 2219 focuses only on disclosure and does not contain elements from previous legislation such as barring campaign spending by government contractors.

The DISCLOSE Act 2012 builds on requirements already approved by the Supreme Court. In fact, the Court pointed in the direction of enhanced disclosure when it said that disclosure is important to “providing the electorate with information.” It also supported disclaimer requirements “so that the people will be able to evaluate the arguments to which they are being subjected.” We couldn’t agree more.

Voters deserve and need to know the sources of funding for election advertising so they can make informed decisions. Secret campaign money has no place in America’s democracy simply because it undermines the role of the voter and corrupts the election process. Voters have a right to know -- whether it is a corporation, union, trade association, or non-profit advocacy group making unlimited political expenditures and influencing elections.

Candidates, too, have a need for disclosure of the sources of independent expenditures. There is a danger that the candidates’ own voices will be drowned out by huge outside spending, and that a last-minute onslaught of untrue charges from secret spenders will alter the outcome of an election without the candidate being able to challenge the sources or to hold them accountable in any way. It is in the interest of candidates to speak in their own voices and control their own messages so that the voters

can make informed decisions, rather than having unknown and unaccountable spenders distort the candidates’ views and the voters’ responses. It is especially important to candidates, as it is to voters, that outside spenders certify, as is required by S. 2219, that they are truly independent of candidacies. Otherwise, a candidate risks having his or her opponent direct or influence unlimited secret spending against the candidate. And the voter risks voting for someone who has hidden his or her campaign tactics and funding sources from the public.

The League of Women Voters is also concerned that campaign finance reform legislation in general and disclosure legislation in particular seems increasingly to be decided in Congress on party-line votes. As an organization that takes its nonpartisanship seriously, we hope that the DISCLOSE Act of 2012 will receive the careful and thoughtful consideration it deserves. The League understands that not everyone agrees with our views on this subject, but open and honest debate will better serve our country than the pursuit of partisan political power on such a fundamental issue as our election processes.

**FAIR AND CLEAN ELECTIONS,
DETERMINED BY THE VOTES OF
AMERICAN CITIZENS, SHOULD BE
AT THE CENTER OF OUR
DEMOCRACY. CONGRESS MUST
ACT QUICKLY AND ENACT THE
DISCLOSE ACT OF 2012.**

Vote With the League - June Election Ballot Measures

We **support** Proposition 28, [the Legislative Term Limits Reform Act](#). This simple reform will help make our legislature more accountable and effective. The current limits on how many terms an individual can serve in the legislature would be replaced by a twelve-year limit on the total number of years one could serve—whether in the Assembly, the Senate, or a combination of the two.

We have taken a **neutral** position on Proposition 29, [the California Cancer Research Act](#). This measure would add a one-dollar per pack tax on cigarettes sold in California, with proceeds to be used for cancer and other smoking-related health issues, anti-smoking campaigns, and law enforcement. While the League supports the causes underwritten by this measure, we believe that earmarking state revenue for specific expenses reduces the flexibility needed by the legislature in setting budgets to respond to current needs.

April 30	Measure H presentation & 20 th Assembly District forum	7 P.M., Union City Council Chambers, 34009 Alvarado-Niles Road, Union City
May 3	25 th Assembly District Candidate Forum	7:30 P.M., FUSD Board Room, 4210 Technology Drive, Fremont
May 10	Education Committee	9:30 AM Miriam Keller's Home
May 17	Action Committee	12 Noon at Kay Emanuele's house
May 21	Y Vote awards to winning students	7 P.M. Fremont Main Library
June 2	Annual Meeting – breakfast at 8:30, will precede meeting that will start at 9:30	8:30 A.M. Sweet Tomatoes Speaker will be Sen. Ellen Corbett.

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.

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

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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) _____

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