

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS®



**FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY**

**OCTOBER 2012**

**November Meeting**

New Ways to Deliver Health Care  
Guest Speaker – Alex Briscoe

Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 Networking 7:00 Program  
Fremont Main Library  
2400 Stevenson Blvd, Fremont

What is the status of the test case of using Fire Dept. paramedics for community care?

How does the Federal Health Care Act affect Alameda County’s services?

What are the prospects for a teen health center in Fremont?

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**

October 15, 2012  
Sisters of the Holy Family Motherhouse Auditorium  
159 Washington Blvd, Fremont  
6:30 Networking, 7:00 Program

Sister Caritas Foster will present information about this global scourge and its local implications.

*Did you know that there is a link between our daily lives and involuntary servitude? In our daily lives we can wear, use, consume items made or processed by men, women, children in what the State Dept. calls “modern day slavery”.*

*Did you know that domestic sex trafficking is the primary trafficking problem in the United States?*

How prevalent is this in our area? Local authorities are targeting this practice for prosecution.

*What role can the League play in this area of human rights abuse?*

For a more in depth examination of the problems involved go to the Sept. 10, 2012 cover story in the Christian Science Monitor.

Check out your footprint at the State Dept.’s interactive website – <http://slaveryfootprint.org>

*In This Issue...*

- p.3 Alameda Co. Measure A1
- p.4 Washington Hosp. Bond Meas. Z
- p. 4 Special BART subway tour Oct. 26th
- p. 5 Ohlone College Measure K
- p.6 Democracy in the Balance-  
*Money in Elections*

## President's Message



Our League is helping all eligible citizens to register, become informed & vote by holding a Voter Registration Day, Sept. 25 at Ohlone College and at the Fremont Resource Center. Those who cannot make it on Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> can now register online at the Registrar of Voters or call 1-800-345-VOTE or in Spanish it is 1-800-345-VOTA to ask for a registration form to be mailed to them.

We are holding 5 evenings of candidate forums. WE encourage all new and existing voters to attend or watch them on cable live or visit our League website to click on the individual forums' videos. Then voters can visit [smartvoter.org](http://smartvoter.org) to see what each individual candidate thinks is important. The free web space that Smart Voter offers to each candidate allows participating candidates to 'speak' to you the voter.

Also on our League website we have DVD's of the state pro/cons of the initiatives in English. Mandarin, Farsi and Spanish will be added this month. LWV California's written pro/cons can be found on [Cavotes.org](http://Cavotes.org), the website of the education arm of the League. And Smart Voter will have all kinds of information about the state initiatives and the county and city measures.

The Alameda County Library is sponsoring a viewing of 3 presidential debates. Our League is moderating the discussion that will take place after the viewing. Please check our web site for details on time and place.

There are many ballot measures and candidates to consider this year. We encourage you to take a few minutes every day this month to inform yourself so that you will feel good about your vote on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, many thanks to all the Leaguers who made all of the above possible, especially our forum guru, Marilyn Singer.

### Board Briefs

#### At the August Board meeting, the Board learned that:

- Membership is now 104.
- Heard from Voter Service that there will be 5 evenings of candidate forums and 2 voter registration days.
- Heard that we are joining other Leagues to produce a pro/con on the state initiatives.
- Learned that Jane Mueller would produce a script on prop. 30 & 38.
- Learned that we received two \$500 grants from LWVC to produce a DVD pro/con on the initiatives in English and Farsi.
- Heard that we may also produce a DVD pro/con (Initiatives) in Mandarin.
- Heard that the Homeowners Association election Committee supervised 2 elections this summer.
- Had a report on the general meeting programs through December.
- Heard we have reserved a large area of the library in Feb. For visibility.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-13

### Officers

President	Miriam Keller <a href="mailto:president@lwvfnuc.org">president@lwvfnuc.org</a>
VP Administration VP Program	Sam Neeman Ellen Culver <a href="mailto:program@lwvfnuc.org">program@lwvfnuc.org</a>
VP Voter Service	Sets Amann <a href="mailto:voterservice@lwvfnuc.org">voterservice@lwvfnuc.org</a> <a href="mailto:forumscib@lwvfnuc.org">forumscib@lwvfnuc.org</a>
Secretary	Carolyn Hedgecock
Treasurer	Peter Starr

### Directors

Voter Editor	Alex Starr <a href="mailto:votered@lwvfnuc.org">votered@lwvfnuc.org</a>
Communications	Isabelle McAndrews <a href="mailto:publicity@lwvfnuc.org">publicity@lwvfnuc.org</a> Kathy Bray Martha Crowe Judy Keller Mary Miller Pat Lewis Jean Holmes Daria Wagganer Susan Gearhart
At Large	
At Large	
At Large	
At Large	
At Large	
At Large	
Social Media	
Historian	

### Off Board

Membership	Andrea Schacter
Education Cmte. Chair	Miriam Keller
Action Cmte. Chair	Kay Emanuele <a href="mailto:action@lwvfnuc.org">action@lwvfnuc.org</a>
Cable Cmte Chair	Kay Emanuele
Webmaster/Db Admin	Peter Starr <a href="mailto:webmaster@lwvfnuc.org">webmaster@lwvfnuc.org</a>
Membership Team	Sam Neeman Kathy Steel-Sabo Lynn Locher
Nominating Cmte.	Open Jean Holmes Gail Blalock

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

PO Box 3218 Fremont, CA 94539

510-794-5783

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

Editor Alex Starr

Layout: Jane Mueller

## **Alameda County Measure A1 Parcel Tax Requires 2/3 vote to pass.**

### **The Way It Is Now**

The Oakland Zoo has a total budget of approximately \$13 million. The money comes mostly from what it charges people to visit the zoo and from sales of food and gifts at the zoo. Almost 9% of the money comes from public support -- the City of Oakland and the East Bay Regional Park District. In the past, Oakland provided more money for the zoo, but has cut that money over the past several years.

Nationally, the average level of public support for municipal zoos is approximately 35% of their operations budgets. The zoo has had support for capital improvements from a variety of tax measures (all bonds) over the years.

Oakland voters recently approved a transient occupancy tax, some of which supports the zoo. This money is included in the money received from the City of Oakland.

About 65% of zoo visitors are from Alameda County other than Oakland, and 15% from Oakland.

The zoo presents educational programs to students from all over the Bay Area. Some come to the zoo, and others get visits from the zoomobile. Schools with a large number of poor students get these programs free; other schools pay for the programs.

Last year, 47 school districts from 12 counties participated in zoo programs in some way; of these, 16 districts are in Alameda County.

### **What Proposition A1 Would Do**

A parcel tax would be added to property taxes in Alameda County. Residential parcels would pay \$12 per year, and non-residential parcels would pay \$72 per year. This tax would go on for 25 years.

**Help Wanted:** Seeking League members who want to show off their baking skills or their bakery shopping skills at the monthly membership meetings. Up coming opportunities are October 15, 2012 and November 19, 2012. Contact Mary Miller at (510)796-0911 for details.

The money from this measure would be spent on repairing existing zoo facilities, and to support on-going programs. In particular, the money would be used to keep the entrance fee low, to support educational programs, and to take care of the animals at the zoo.

There would be a public oversight committee to ensure that the money is used correctly.

### **Fiscal Effects**

Alameda County property taxes would be increased by \$12 per residential parcel and \$72 per non-residential parcel for 25 years. The zoo would get about \$6 million per year from Measure A1 for 25 years.

### **Supporters Say**

- The Oakland Zoo is an important public resource. We should support it and help it maintain its current high standard of care for animals and exceptional educational programs.

### **Opponents Say**

- The zoo already has multiple sources of public funds: general fund and hotel tax revenues from Oakland, bond money and income from the East Bay Regional Park District's general fund, and a grant from State Parks. We can't afford higher taxes.

**Supporters:** East Bay Zoological Society,  
[www.oaklandzoo.org/East\\_Bay\\_Zoological\\_Society.php](http://www.oaklandzoo.org/East_Bay_Zoological_Society.php)

**Opponents:** Save Knowland Park,  
[www.saveknowland.org](http://www.saveknowland.org)

### ***Vote with the League - November Election Ballot Measures***

The **LWVC has recommendations** on 5 of the 11 measures on the statewide ballot in November:

- We recommend a **YES** vote on Proposition 30, Proposition 34, and Proposition 40.
- We recommend a **NO** vote on Proposition 31 and Proposition 32.
- We are neutral on Propositions 38 and 39.

**Measure Z**  
**Rapid Lifesaving Emergency Care**  
**Washington Township Health Care District**  
**Bond measure –**  
**2/3 Approval Required**

*To provide rapid, lifesaving emergency medical care to our local community by expanding Emergency/Intensive Care units and other facilities, provide the latest lifesaving medical technologies and facilities for treating heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer and other diseases, reduce overcrowding and wait times and to enable Washington Hospital to become a designated Trauma Center, shall Washington Township Health Care District issue \$186,000,000 of bonds with an independent citizens' oversight committee, annual audits, and no proceeds going towards administrative salaries? YES NO*

**Impartial Analysis from County Counsel**

Measure Z, a Washington Township Health Care District ("District") bond measure, seeks voter approval to authorize the District to issue and sell bonds of up to one hundred eighty-six million dollars (\$186,000,000.00) in aggregate principal amount.

Pursuant to California Constitution Section 1 of Article XIII A and California Health & Safety Code Section 32302, this measure will become effective upon the affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the qualified electors voting on this measure.

Under the Ballot title/question, the proceeds will fund projects to expand emergency/intensive care units and other facilities, to provide medical technologies and facilities to treat various diseases, to reduce wait times and overcrowding, and to enable Washington Hospital to become a designated trauma center.

If two-thirds of those who vote on the measure vote "yes", the District will be authorized to issue bonds of up to one hundred eighty-six million dollars (\$186,000,000.00). Approval of this measure will authorize a levy on the assessed value of taxable property within the District by an amount needed to pay the principal and interest on these bonds in each year that the bonds are outstanding.

The Tax Rate Statement for Measure Z in this sample ballot pamphlet reflects the District's best estimates, based on currently available data and projections, of the property tax rates required to service the bonds. The best estimate of the tax required to be levied to fund the bonds during the first fiscal year after the sale of the bonds is 1.310 ¢ per \$100.00 (one hundred dollars), which is \$13.10 (thirteen dollars and ten cents) per \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand dollars), of the assessed valuation in fiscal year 2016-2017. The best estimate of the highest tax rate required to be levied to fund the bonds is 1.667 ¢ per \$100.00 (one hundred dollars), which is \$16.67 (sixteen dollars and sixty-seven cents) per \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand dollars), of the assessed valuation in fiscal year 2044-2045. The best estimate of the average tax rate over all of the years that the bonds are outstanding is 0.987 ¢ per \$100.00 (one hundred dollars), which is \$9.87 (nine dollars and eighty-seven cents) per \$100,000.00 (one hundred thousand dollars), of the assessed valuation.

An independent citizens' oversight committee will monitor the bond expenditures.

If two-thirds of those voting on this measure do not vote for approval, the measure will fail and the District will not be authorized to issue the bonds.

DONNA R. ZIEGLER  
County Counsel

**A SPECIAL BART TOUR**

Friday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 A.M.  
Fremont's Central Park

Help celebrate the completion of the BART subway tunnel underneath Central Park. Join us on a special "Tunnel Walk" on October 26<sup>th</sup>.

Remember the tour we had when they were building the tunnel?

The big machines, the mounds of dirt, the huge pieces of steel, the incessant noise of the construction off of Stevenson Blvd.?

Well, that portion of BART to Warm Springs is now wrapping up.

Take a look and see what it all looks like now.

Contact Alex Starr, 656-6877, [apstarr@ix.netcom.com](mailto:apstarr@ix.netcom.com)

to let her know you are joining us.

# OHLONE COLLEGE BOARD ELECTION METHOD - MEASURE K

## The Question:

*"For the election of governing board members of the Ohlone Community College District, shall members residing in each trustee area be elected by the registered voters in that trustee area?"*

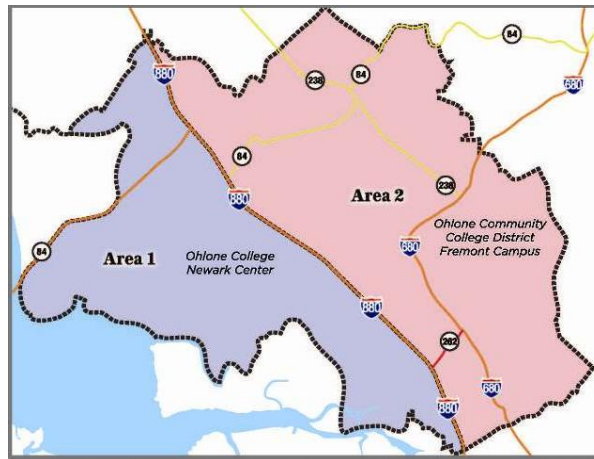
## Impartial Analysis:

Currently, the District's governing board elections are "at-large," meaning that all registered voters of the District vote for all candidates of the District's governing board. The District is comprised of two trustee areas. Area 1 represents the City of Newark, as well as the Fremont and Union City precincts west of I-880. Area 2 represents the Fremont and Union City precincts east of I-880.

This measure seeks voter approval to change the elections from "at-large" to "by-area." Under the "by-area" election, only the registered voters of Area 1 will vote for candidates residing in Area 1. Only registered voters of Area 2 will vote for candidates residing in Area 2.

If a majority of the qualified electors voting on this measure vote for approval, the measure will become effective November 2014. A majority "no" vote on the measure will maintain the "at-large" elections for the District's governing board.

DONNA R. ZIEGLER County Counsel



Area 1: Newark and the parts of Fremont/Union City west of I-880  
Area 2: the parts of Fremont and Union City east of I-880

## OCTOBER 1ST DEBUT FOR THE NEW "NEXT" GENERATION OF SMARTVOTER

### SmartVoter®



A revolutionary experience is waiting for you at Smart Voter's brand new Next Generation website! **On October 1<sup>st</sup>** you will be able to go the web site to check it out. This cutting-edge update of the League's award-winning service will sport a new streamlined look and an array of feature stories that changes every day. The many enhanced features

will be especially helpful for the quick information needs and small touch screens of smartphone and tablet owners -- but promise to be fun and interesting for desktop and laptop computer users as well.

Get together with your friends and compare the appearance of the Next Generation site -- its exact layout will depend on the size of the screen and type of device each of you is using. For this November's election, Smart Voter will be available to California voters in both its traditional format and the new Next Generation design. For future elections the state League will expand the capabilities, features and innovative content of the versatile Next Generation site. If you have questions, comments or suggestions regarding it, please email [ca-director@smartvoter.org](mailto:ca-director@smartvoter.org). And click the "More" button on the new site to sign up for the Smart Voter newsletter, like us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#) and receive our latest updates

## Democracy in the Balance

This is the first in a series of articles about Democracy in the balance.

## Money in Elections: What the League Can Do

From Elizabeth MacNamara, President, LWVUS

### OVERVIEW

We are all aware that the huge amount of special interest money, particularly in federal races, has been a problem for years. We also know that these problems have been magnified by the Supreme Court ruling in the *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* case which unleashed corporate spending for supposedly independent campaign expenditures and which has resulted in millions and millions of dollars in secret contributions. And we are also concerned that a great deal of this money is going into highly negative, and often misleading, election-related ads.

There is a lot of frustration within the League – and around the country generally – about what can be done to minimize the ramifications in the 2012 election year and beyond.

### LWVUS ACTIVITIES UNDERWAY

1. We are continuing the fight to pass the DISCLOSE Act. This essential legislation will require financial disclosure for all campaign advertising. No longer will trade associations, corporations and wealthy individuals be able to make secret contributions to run election ads. Our volunteer national Lobby Corps is working both the Senate and the House on the bill, we made a statement to the Senate Rules Committee, and you can expect a series of up-to-the-minute action alerts. The national office will also be working with Leagues in key states both to lobby directly and to reach out to the media in support of the DISCLOSE Act.

2. With a grant from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Shelter Rock, NY, we will be joining with one or two state Leagues to purchase advertising to bring the reform message to the public. I spoke at an exciting event at the church recently and can report great enthusiasm for challenging secret money in politics.

3. As you know, the Federal Elections Commission is not enforcing current law on campaign finance, so we and our sister organizations have been pressing for big changes. As a start, we've called on the President to appoint five new commissioners to the agency. With the strong support of thousands of League members, our efforts on the petition to the President on the FEC reached 25,000 signers and we are anxiously awaiting his promised response to the petition and the continuing problems at the FEC.

4. A new League Campaign Finance Task Force is now up and running, which includes nine knowledgeable and committed League members from around the country. The task force will serve as a resource to the LWVUS Board and will provide information and input on campaign finance issues, including short – and – long – term strategies for reform. In the short term, the Task Force will be researching and providing information to members on the proposed constitutional amendments that have been introduced in the U.S. Congress.

5. Senior staff is participating in an Independent Sector working group, whose focus is on developing a response for the non-profit community on the increasing use of existing and new 501c(4), social welfare organizations, to engage in electoral activities. The League is a member of Independent Sector, which is a national organization that speaks for the non-profit sector on a number of issues. One concern of the IS working group is that the valuable role played by social welfare organizations will be tainted by new groups that are being created under section 501c(4) of the tax code but whose purpose is primarily to funnel funds into electoral races.

6. The Board is recommending to Convention a comprehensive program to educate members and communities on the issue of campaign finance in order to inform our education and legislative efforts as needed.

### WHAT LEAGUES CAN DO

1. Engage in the League's Money in Elections reform campaign. Call on your Senators and Representative to support the DISCLOSE Act. Respond to LWVUS action alerts, reach out to your members to engage them in this topic, especially to meet with your federal representatives or their staff in the state or district. Write a letter-to-the-editor of your local papers and call attention to the problems of secret money in campaigns. Voters deserve to know where the money is coming from.
2. Participate in the "Stations: Stand by Your Ad" campaign. LWVUS is encouraging Leagues to participate in this project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania that identifies ways TV and radio stations can reduce the number of erroneous campaign ads run by third

- party organizations..
3. Engage in public education about how to watch TV campaign ads – particularly those sponsored by third party (and supposedly independent) organizations – with a critical eye. This effort can build on work already done by many Leagues to develop skills on “Debate Watching 101” and “How to Judge a Candidate”. LWVUS/EF hopes to produce some tips on this topic, but we need your help! If your League has developed materials on how to watch campaign ads, please send them to Pam Sterner at [pssterner@lwv.org](mailto:pssterner@lwv.org), so that we can compile information that can be shared with all Leagues.

### CONCLUSION

Big money in elections – and the related avalanche of questionable and negative campaign ads – will be an inescapable reality in election year 2012. But the League is not sitting back quietly while that happens! There is much to be done, and I encourage everyone to make “money in elections” an important part of our *Power the Voter* efforts this year. Thanks for all you do!

#### Handy Election Sites for Additional Information

[SmartVoter.org](http://SmartVoter.org)

[CaVotes.org](http://CaVotes.org)

[EasyVoterGuide.org](http://EasyVoterGuide.org)

#### California Elections and Voter Information: Secretary of State's information about election

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

#### Proposition analysis from the Legislative Analyst's Office: a good place to start learning about the propositions

[http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/ballot\\_source/Propositions.aspx](http://www.lao.ca.gov/laoapp/ballot_source/Propositions.aspx)

#### Official Voter Information Guide: what every voter will get in the mail the beginning of October

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/>

#### VotersEdge.org campaign finance information: see who's giving to the ballot measure campaigns

<http://votersedge.org/california/ballot-measures/2012/november>

#### Read and share ballot measure information

<http://cavotes.org/vote/ballot-measures>

**Voter ID issue and Voter Intimidation** - League teams up with Election Protection. If you are working at the polls on Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>, have the contact information (1-866-OUR-VOTE or 1-866-687-8683) for Election Protection available up to and especially on Election Day, so that you can either report possible voting issues yourself or refer people to Election Protection to report the problems themselves.

Oct. 3	Great Decision – Exit from Afghanistan	7:30 PM Call or email Miriam for location
Oct 5	Reviving California Community Summit IV	8:30 AM-12:30 PM Cupertino Community Hall 10350 Torre Ave., Cupertino
Oct. 12	Education Committee	9:30 AM at Miriam’s house
Oct. 15	Human Trafficking	6:30 Networking, 7:00PM Program – Sisters of the Holy Family Auditorium, 159 Washington Blvd
Oct. 18	Action Committee	12 noon at Kay’s house
Oct. 26	BART Tunnel Tour	9:30 AM, Central Park

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_